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On March 8, Senate passed S. 2548, to facilitate administration of certain grazing lands....applicable to national forest lands and those administered by the Secretary of Agriculture under Title III of Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act....assures grazing permittee that he will receive benefits of improvements made in grazing land by compensation for his work if he doesn't get to continue use of the land....provides regulations governing transfer of grazing privileges....permits informal appeals of Departmental decisions up to the Secretary of Agriculture and further appeal to U.S. District Court.

2. Administration's new tax bill (H.R. 8300) which has passed the House but not the Senate, provides that farmers, ranchers and landowners may treat certain soil and water conservation costs, including erosion control, as expenses rather than capitalizing them. Amount that may be deducted any one year cannot exceed more than 25 percent of gross income derived from farming. Amount above 25 percent, however, may be carried over to the next year's income tax report. Deduction is limited to land which has been or is used for farming at time of deduction. Deductions can be made for "treatment or moving of earth" including (but not limited to) leveling, grading and terracing, contour furrowing, diversion and drainage ditches, control and protection of watercourse, outlets and ponds, eradication of brush and planting of windbreaks. (Reduction in tax revenue to result from this provision in 1955 is estimated by the Committee at \$10 million. Purpose is to encourage sound conservation.)

3. NASCD news letter indicates that in testimony before House Subcommittee on Agricultural Appropriations, Waters Davis, Jr., and George Heidrich asked for an increase of \$17,420,000 (over 1954 figure of \$59,068,834) for SCS to use for "staffing new districts, to speed up current rate of progress....(and)...complete land inventory." NASCD recommended \$6,000,000 for small watersheds plus another \$5,000,000 "when Andersen-Hope Bill (H.R. 6788) becomes law."

4. Hershel D. Newsom, Master of National Grange, testifying before Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry on farm program bill (S. 3052--Agricultural Act of 1954) urged "ample provision for speedy completion of the land capability classification program, now approximately one-third completed (on farm land)....work going too slowly....land capability inventory can be completed on farm land in 5 to 7 years at probable cost of about \$85,000,000 or less....With this capability information it would be possible to approach problem of making production adjustments with more reasonable degree of intelligence, especially with regard to our land.....would give sound guide, for example, on what to do with acreage diverted from such crops as corn, cotton and wheat.....After all, the only really legitimate economic justification for cutbacks in production, insofar as acres of land utilized is concerned, is adherence to a sound land-use program, using each acre so as to provide the greatest economic benefit or value to the landowner, to his Nation. Under this sort of program it would be possible to establish sound relationship between wise land use and benefits of a price support program.....encourage building of a really valuable bank of soil fertility and improved soil structure....."

5. NEW PUBLICATIONS just off the press: IRRIGATING CORN, Farmers' Bulletin 2059, by C. J. Francis and J. W. Turelle, 14 pages, well illustrated. (You should have your notification copy direct from Government Printing Office soon, if not already.) This bulletin applies anywhere corn is grown...points out possibilities of irrigating corn, methods and problems. IMPLEMENTS AND METHODS OF TILLAGE TO CONTROL SOIL BLOWING IN NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS, F. B. 1797, revised, by Agricultural Research

Service and Soil Conservation Service, 21 pages, illustrated. Deals with selection and proper use of tillage implements in control of soil blowing.

6. There's some confusion about names of new agencies in USDA and new names for old agencies! For example....one you deal with regularly....Agricultural Conservation Program Service (ACPS) is name of agency in Washington which was formerly ACP. Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) is still the name of the program. State and county committees which administer the ACP program in the field are Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committees (ASC Committees or occasionally called just ASCC). The committees administer some other Department programs (commodity loans, crop insurance, acreage allotments, etc.) for agencies such as Commodity Stabilization Service....hence the "double" name for state and county committees.

7. Reports for calendar year 1953 show that accomplishments dropped 2.1 percent over 1952. Considering the uncertainties and disruptions we all have had, that is not bad. As far as fiscal year accomplishments are concerned, we have until June 30 to gain back the loss. Given a decent break on weather and other matters beyond your control, I have a hunch you'll come out ahead on June 30. (As far as we are concerned you'll get the break on matters we can control....but that problem on weather which Mark Twain so aptly described is one that even the SCS hasn't been able to whip!) Getting back to records of accomplishment, some items showed a large increase. These included contour farming, cover cropping, tree planting and improved water application. Districts added 205,343 new cooperators with 59,592,850 acres of land (as compared with 262,870 new cooperators and 72,574,754 acres in 1952),

8. THIS AND THAT.....New York state agencies including districts, with technical advice from SCS, busy on proposed new water rights legislation....An SCD in Massachusetts seeking a way to finance its own farm forester....Supervisors and SCSers in Nebraska taking "firm stand" that treatment of farm land must be done first but rapidly so complete small watershed program can move ahead (good!).....West Virginia State Soil Conservation Committee urges SCDs to enter into memos of understanding with State Experiment Station and State Bureau of Mines for revegetation of strip mine areas, SCS to furnish technical help to land owners who ask assistance.....SCS helping West Virginia State Department of Education to prepare conservation handbook for teachers.....Students in one-room school near Stevens Point, Wis., built a concrete rotating model of a landscape....types of erosion and various conservation practices are illustrated (had some good SCS technical help in doing it).....All winners of PROGRESSIVE FARMER "master farm family recognition" had an SCD farm planField days in California and a story in current WESTERN LIVESTOCK JOURNAL reveal the rather astounding results of use of fertilizer on annual range which stems from work at SCS nursery at Pleasanton....A. E. McGlymonds, formerly director in Region 5, has bought home at Ojai in Ventura County, Calif.....Raylord Container Corporation in Mississippi celebrated planting of the one hundred millionth tree on its property (don't know how much land they own over the U. S. but that's a lot of trees!).....One State Office checked news clippings for a month, found about 85 percent did not mention SCS assistance on the subjects reported....didn't mention SCS in any way....how can we expect the public to know what SCS is if it doesn't know the SCS helped or that you are an SCS man? (We can't, and shouldn't expect to, but 100 percent but an 85 percent "dereliction in duty" is too much!) Nuff said.....USDA and State Experiment Station research in East show that fertilizers with high percentage of potash do a better job for pasture and forage crops than commonly-used fertilizers

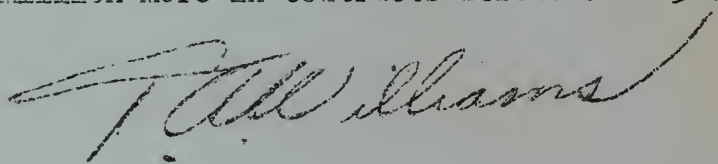
applied in same amounts...since plants absorb more potash than they actually use, several smaller applications a year may be more efficient than one large one.

9. Problems of diverted acres take different forms....sweet potato growers are concerned that some diverted acres may go into sweet potatoes....livestock men worry that increased pasture and forage may result in too much meat.....an opinion from midwest and west is, "Much of diverted acres in wheat belt will go to corn and soybeans and corn acres will be diverted to soybeans and wheat."....There's a nice merry-go-round for you....and one that will not help prices, balanced supplies, conservation or in any other way! Let's try to get farmers and landowners to adjust on the basis of good land use.....using the land within its capabilities. That is sound and most beneficial for the long pull. It's sometimes tough to do when farmers are up against immediate problems of income, weather, labor and what have you....but ours is a long-time program, maybe not the easiest or most profitable in all cases the first year but far better over a period of a few years.

10. Consolidated reports from Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas show that amount of land damaged by moderate to severe wind erosion increased from about 1.5 million acres on Feb. 1 to more than 9 million acres by March 1. Washington office has been deluged with requests for information about the recent dust storms....as I'm sure many of you have. In addition to the voluminous mail inquiries on this subject, we have given interviews to national news agencies, NBC-TV, Newsweek, Time, Life, Business Week, and others. We realize that the situation is serious and that considerable of the wheat crop in southeastern Colorado and southwestern Kansas has already been damaged beyond repair. Nevertheless, we are still trying to be as optimistic about the problem as conditions permit. So far, we have been telling newsmen that the drought is as bad, in length of time and severity, as it was in the early thirties. But we have contended that soil blowing is not yet as serious as it was then, for two main reasons: (1) Many farmers are practicing better conservation measures than they did two decades ago, and (2) Farmers and government agencies are better organized in most communities, mainly through soil conservation districts, to combat the adverse elements.

11. Recent step by Secretary Benson to provide more Federal help to drought and dust storm stricken areas of Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma..... makes drought relief funds available for practices to help control wind erosion on a reimbursable basis. Funds are available to local governmental units such as county governments, wind erosion control districts and soil conservation districts established under State laws. Procedure for making this help available depends on applicable State laws. Secretary notified the Governors of the States on March 11.

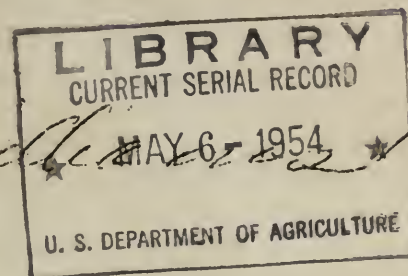
12. I assume you've read Carl Brown's statement given before Small Watersheds Committee of NASCD in New Orleans. Copy was sent to all field offices. Plans are nearly completed for the 62 small watersheds in 34 States....additional planners and aides have been made available to most of them....engineering parties are in field and design engineers are busy at the drafting boards....local interest and participation gratifying....several hundred thousand dollars worth of work has been contracted and we expect to let \$2 or \$3 million more in contracts before June 30.



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.
April 13, 1954



To: All SCS Field Offices

From: D. A. Williams, Administrator

Subject: Current Developments

1. House Appropriations Committee April 9 reported the Agriculture bill for consideration by House. House Committee recommended \$4,510,671 more than President's budget request and \$58,608 less than appropriations available for fiscal 1954. Appropriations for 1954 are \$71,486,279. Budget request for 1955 was \$66,117,000. The Committee recommended \$70,627,671. The Committee restored money to maintain present number of area offices and added money to staff new districts organized in 1954 and expected to be organized in 1955. Collecting reimbursement from farmers and ranchers for aerial photographs is anticipated by the bill. The Committee report stated: "Funds for necessary information work at the national level and in the field to assist State Offices shall be available from this appropriation."..... Budget request of \$5,000,000 for watershed protection was approved by Committee with statement, "....approval by Congress this year of further legislation on this subject indicates the widespread support for this essential work." Committee recommended same amount for 11 authorized flood control watersheds as in 1954. Bill provides for continuation of ACP 5 percent transfer of funds with same language as in 1954 appropriation bill. Bill was scheduled to come up for discussion on floor of House early this week.

Our hearings before Senate Subcommittee on Agricultural Appropriations were held April 12 and 13 as this letter was being stenciled.

2. Dr. Edward H. Graham, Director of Division of Plant Technology, has been granted extended leave for professional study. He sails from New York April 17 and will return about September 19 after visiting Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Greece, Italy and Western Europe. Purpose of trip is to study and observe soil conservation and land use problems and accomplishments and to present papers at International Botanical Congress in Paris in July and at meeting of International Union for the Protection of Nature (an association of conservation organizations) in Copenhagen in August.

3. Service engineering geologists and construction engineers from Engineering and Watershed Planning Units will meet in Albuquerque, May 3 to 7, for a session on engineering geology and its relation to watershed protection programs. Attending from Washington will be Karl Kohler, Director of Division of Engineering, Louis Gottschalk, geologist, C. J. Frances, Head of Design and Construction Branch, and Dr. V. H. Jones, geologist formerly at Ft. Worth Regional Office and now with SCS at Beltsville.

4. A proposed Service policy on farm and ranch planning has been sent to State Conservationists for their review and suggestions. It was developed by National Committee which met here recently. Members were Joe Libby, State Conservationist, Utah; Harold Lakin, Assistant State Conservationist, Michigan; J. Dexter Haws, WUC,

Nebraska; G. M. Morris, soil conservationist, Texas; Clarence Richards, WUC, Tennessee; Howard Busch, AC, Pennsylvania, and Bob Perry, soil conservationist, California. Proposed policy (to be issued in memo form after comments are received) indicates that farm or ranch planning is a means to an end--not an end in itself. It is a means the Service uses to help farmers or ranchers to (a) use their land within its capabilities, (b) treat land, water and plant resources according to needs for protection and improvement and (c) become conservation minded so they will continue to improve and develop their conservation programs. It specifies that planning is a progressive procedure, which may be accomplished in a short or long period, but drops the names and eliminates the formalized stages of "initial," "advanced," and "basic." It provides that farm and ranch planning must be coordinated with works of improvement in a watershed protection program.....techniques of farm or ranch planning are the same on individual farms or in a watershed program.....planning must be done on the basis of adequate soil survey information.

5. And that reminds me of something else....let's not talk, or write about, SCS "recommendations." SCS does not recommend. Perhaps recommendations are made by other agencies! The SCS helps the farmer develop a program. And we give him the needed help in establishing it. In so doing, we give him the facts about his land and related resources, we outline alternate ways of doing it....he makes his choice and develops his plan. There's a difference. Think it over. That's why the SCS exists.

6. Death took two veteran SCSers recently. Julian G. Liddell, State Conservationist in Georgia since 1950, died suddenly Friday night April 9. He had been with the Service since 1935, starting as regional soil conservationist at Spartanburg. Clyde L. Anderson, area engineer at Provo, Utah, was lost when the British Comet (jet airliner) went down in the Mediterranean April 8. Anderson was enroute to a 4-months' assignment with Foreign Operations Administration. He started with the Service at Safford, Arizona, in 1935.

7. Task Force on Water Resources and Power, of Commission on Reorganization of Executive Branch of Government, will hold four public hearings: San Francisco, May 3; Denver, May 17; Chattanooga, June 1; and New York City, June 14. "Responsible individuals and representatives of groups" wishing to be heard should so advise Charles D. Curran, Task Force Administrator, Room 3810, General Accounting Office Building, Washington 25, D. C. He also can provide detailed information. Written statements are due two weeks prior to the hearing. The Task Force is concerned with such functions of Federal Government as improvements for navigation, drainage, irrigation, land reclamation, water supply and all kinds of generation, transmission and distribution of electric energy. In establishing the Commission, headed by former President Herbert Hoover, Congress authorized it to study and investigate present organization and operating methods of all Departments and recommend changes to reduce expenditures, eliminate duplication and non-essential services, and otherwise increase efficiency and economy.

8. LET'S SUPPORT FERTILITY--NOT SURPLUSES is title of article by Herschel D. Newsom, Master, National Grange in April CAPPER'S FARMER. It deals with same general subject as Newsom's Congressional testimony described in item 4 of our March 23 letter. Article urges completion of "national land inventory".....use of capabilities in connection with any farm program developed.....wise land use

should be basic objective and the base of all farm programs....."We must deal with diverted acres as an opportunity instead of a continuing problem."

(NOTE: We frequently mention articles of special interest in various magazines so you can read them if you have access to them. Unless we so state, however, we do not have reprints.)

9. The McCarthy Committee hasn't investigated us yet BUT.....recently we had a call from George Dixon, Washington columnist. He was digging into "infiltration in government".....and had found that SCS had a man called an "infiltration specialist." (Horrors!! And in a respected USDA agency too.) George Musgrave, infiltration specialist, explained his job, what it meant and Dixon devoted his next column to the incident--also getting in quite a little about conservation and doing SCS no damage. Said Dixon, "I tried hard to distract attention from the Army. I'll bet Secretary Stevens isn't even grateful."

10. Early in March, a joint committee of Extension Service and Soil Conservation Service representatives met in Chicago to "explore plans which would promote good working relations." Committee members were: Extension Directors--Shawnee Brown, Oklahoma; J. E. Carrigan, Vermont; L. E. Hoffman, Indiana; R. B. Tootell, Washington State; SCS State Conservationists--John S. Barnes, California; Earl B. Garrett, North Carolina; Thomas C. Kennard, Ohio; Irving B. Stafford, New York; and Fred J. Sykes, Kansas; Federal Extension Administrator C. M. Ferguson and Deputy Administrator P. V. Kepner; and SCS Administrator D. A. Williams and Deputy Administrator Gladwin Young. We were quite pleased with the cooperative constructive attitude. Three basic assumptions to which we agreed were: (1) That a strong national program of soil and water conservation is one of the basic necessities of American agriculture....that the educational phase is primary responsibility of the Extension Service and on-site technical assistance is the primary responsibility of SCS; (2) That SCDs have an important responsibility and role of local leadership and that Extension and SCS will provide educational and technical help to the districts; and (3) That Extension and SCS will look to State Experiment Stations and USDA research agencies as principal source of new technological information. A new memorandum of understanding will be worked out between the SCS and Extension in Washington and similar modernized memoranda of understanding are recommended in the States. Report of meeting has been sent by each Administrator to State Conservationists and Extension Directors.

On April 5, I met with the full Extension Service staff in Washington and discussed Service principles and policies and the current SCS organization for carrying out the technical assistance phase of the program.

11. Confusion already is developing because our SCS State Conservation Engineers are being referred to as "State Engineers." The latter title is commonly used by the engineers for State governments. (And some States even have their own conservation engineers.) Consequently, we want to get the term "SCS State Conservation Engineer" firmly established immediately.....let's all use the right title.

12. Technical aspects of soil survey work were discussed at annual National Cooperative Soil Survey work-planning conference in St. Louis recently. Reports of a dozen or more committees were reviewed. About 40 attended, including Dr. Kellogg, Washington Soil Survey staff, one State Soil Scientist representing each of five SCS groups of States, and one representative each from four Land Grant College regions, and myself.

Regional technical work-planning conferences of National Cooperative Soil Survey will be held in each of four Land Grant College regions between November 15 and February 1, prior to next National Conference in March. Regional meetings will be attended by State Soil Survey leaders of the Colleges, SCS State Soil Scientists and members of the Washington staff located in the region.

Three major tasks facing the Soil Survey staff in the year ahead, in addition to meeting Service and other needs for survey coverage, are the improvement of classification and correlation of soils, the improvement of soil survey interpretations, and the preparation of a handbook on the use of aerial photography in soil surveys. Two other needs: an orderly system to provide for shifting soils men from one section of the country to another to help meet work loads and to broaden their experience, and an improved type of report and method of publishing maps and reports that would better serve the two types of users--those who require detailed, large scale maps, and those who want a broad view of a county and its essential features.

13. Dr. W. C. Lowdermilk, former SCS Research Chief, who has been working on soil and water problems in Israel and other Middle Eastern countries, was recently retained by the Secretariat of the United Nations for six months as a consultant. Dr. Lowdermilk will make a preliminary survey for a program to promote international cooperation on water control and utilization for development of arid lands.

14. A so-called range inclusion bill has been passed by the Arizona legislature and signed by the Governor. For the first time it permits Arizona range lands to be included in a soil conservation district. District leaders have sought to make such land eligible for district formation to improve the functioning of districts and efficiency of local conservation work.

15. American Watershed Council, Inc., an association of local watershed organizations, is offering a new service to member watershed associations. At a reasonable cost it will provide member associations with WATERSHED NEWS, a 4-page printed newsletter bearing the local association's name. Pages 2 and 3 include standard news of national interest. Local copy for pages 1 and 4 is furnished by the member. Watershed associations which are interested should write direct to E. R. Cotton, President, American Watershed Council, Inc., 203 Transportation Building, Washington, D. C., for further details.

16. HERE AND THERE. Arizona Association of SCDs offered a \$100 "grant-in-aid" to colleges which would stage a summer conservation workshop for teachers....result is that three colleges (Tempe, Tucson and Flagstaff) plan such conservation training sessions for teachers, with help of our men....Southwest Missouri State College, Springfield (teachers college which also trains vo-ag teachers), is producing a "workbook on agriculture" and getting help from SCS men on land capabilities and other phases of soil and water conservation.....LOGAN (UTAH) HERALD JOURNAL carried story and picture when local SCS men presented local high school with 2 by 6 foot conservation survey map to use in vo-ag teaching and for other purposes....Cumberland (Maine) SCD is financing and offering prizes to Vo-Ag and 4-H boys who build "before and after" models of conservation farms.....Committee in Illinois is studying possible revisions in districts law and State water laws.....Several State Conservationists reports indicate progress on Dealer-District-SCS program....DeKalb (Mo.) SCD is developing 2,000-acre watershed soil conservation plan with Marysville city officials to protect city lake....Farm machinery dealers in Coosa (S.C.) SCD bought tree planter for district use.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.
April 26, 1954

To: All SCS Field Offices
From: D. A. Williams, Administrator
Subject: Current Developments

1. By now you doubtless know that the House passed the Agriculture Appropriation Bill on April 14 with a number of amendments. It increased the SCS conservation operations item from \$58,165,671 to \$58,965,671--about \$150,000 more than we had available this year. It restored \$800,000 for continued free distribution of soil survey and land capability maps to farmers and ranchers cooperating with districts. Other amendments increased amounts of money for Extension Service, Agricultural Research Service, and Forest Service. The Appropriation Bill has gone to the Senate.
2. One has to get out where water is short to understand what it means to everyoneand to realize how bad the situation really is. Recently I was in southern Illinois. Hotels allowed visitors to take a bath but urged that water be used sparingly. Citizens were not allowed to water lawns or wash cars and were supposed to limit baths. Water was not served in restaurants unless you asked for it. Farmers had been hauling water for months....pastures were suffering. Even here we were a long way from the center of the drought disaster area....
3. Early this month, several members of our staff here met in Amarillo, Texas, with SCS representatives from wind erosion area. Our men in Southern Plains States had just completed a quick survey of the dust bowl area to get a more accurate and up-to-date report of conditions. We found that our earlier appraisals had been just about right, thanks to accurate reports by our field offices and good "guess-timating" by folks here. The blow area includes southeastern Colorado, western Kansas, southwestern Nebraska, eastern New Mexico, western Oklahoma and western Texas. About 30 percent of the cropland (or 11,650,000 acres) and 10 percent of the rangeland (about 5,210,000 acres) had been damaged as of April 1. An additional 8,176,000 acres of cropland and 6,660,000 acres of range are likely to be damaged if present conditions continue. In really critical areas, more than 50 percent of the cropland already is badly damaged. Much of this is because, since 1942, these areas have opened the largest percentage of land unsuited for cultivation. Any permanent solution to wind erosion problem in Southern Plains must include returning to grass the land not suited to cultivation. Such a shift will require a long time because it will involve changes in ownership patterns. About 80 percent of cultivated land in the blow area this year is suitable for cultivation if properly treated and if cropping systems provide maximum living and dead plant cover year around. About 8 million acres, which is being seriously damaged and is damaging nearby cropland, should be returned to grass.
4. WHERE THEY ARE NOW. You may be interested to know who has come to Washington from Regional Offices the past few months. Here are the names of those not previously announced. A few others are still to arrive.

All Washington and Field Offices

	<u>From:</u>	<u>To Washington</u>
Chester J. Francis	Engr. Div., Lincoln	Chief, Design & Construction Branch, Engr. Div.
James J. Coyle	Engr. Div., Ft. Worth	Agricultural Engr., Engr. Div.
John H. Wetzel	Water Cons. Div., Upper Darby	Chief, Watershed Planning Branch, Planning Div.
Chas. H. Lloyd	Operations Div., Upper Darby	Soil Cons., Watershed Planning Branch, Planning Div.
Ethel L. Chastain	B&F Div., Spartanburg	Clerk, Budget Br., B&F Div.
Richard E. Reinke	Water Cons. Div., Milwaukee	Soil Cons., Watershed Planning Branch, Planning Div.
Theodore A. Neubauer	Project Plans Div., Albuquerque	Cons. Needs & Records Br. Planning Div.
Kirk M. Sandals	Water Cons. Div., Lincoln	Soil Cons., Watershed Planning Branch, Planning Div.
E. Graham Daven	B&F Div., Portland	Budget Analyst, Budget Br. B&F Div.
James E. Gates	Off. of Chief of Oper., Spartanburg	Program Appraisal & Internal Audit, Off. of Admin.
Robert E. Laramy, Jr.	Pers. Mgmt. Div., Upper Darby	Cons. Needs & Records Br. Planning Div.
Addie B. Butler	State Cons. Office, Richmond, Va.	Clerk, Fiscal Examining Br., B&F Div.
Albert J. Geiger	Pers. Mgmt. Div., Portland	Personnel Div-Classification
Lynn R. Bereuter	Water Cons. Div., Lincoln	Civil Engineer, Watershed Planning Br., Planning Div.
Ralph O. Lewis	Soil Cons. Survey Div., Lincoln	Soil Scientist, Soil Surv. Div.
Berten W. Allred	Range Div., Ft. Worth	Soil Cons., Farm & Ranch Planning Br., Planning Div.
A. S. Barnhart	Adm. Serv. Div., Upper Darby	Soil Cons., Cons. Needs & Records Br., Planning Div.

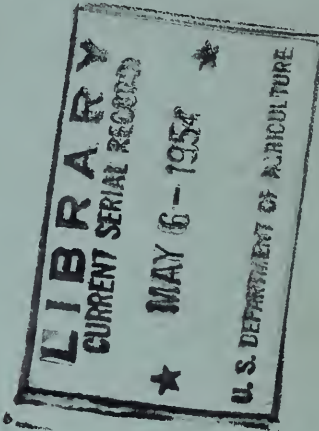
Sorry that space will not permit us to tell you where all of the former Regional Office people have gone but you've probably had announcements from the State Conservationist of those going into your own State.

5. Cartographic Plant at Upper Darby is scheduled to move to Beltsville late this month.

6. The Department has prepared and distributed a 12-page HANDBOOK FOR USE IN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AIMED AT HELPING TO INCREASE STORAGE FACILITIES FOR THE 1954 CROP OF GRAINS AND OILSEEDS. It outlines a seven-point program of farmer-government cooperation to meet the emergency that is expected to exist. You may want to get (or borrow) a copy from the county agent or the ASC Committee and read it since meeting the storage problem will be a main topic of conversation in many areas this year.
7. Five SCS movies are among the 10 top best selling titles in 1953 reported by Department Motion Picture Service. Four are the series prepared especially for school use: TOPSOIL, WATER, EROSION, and SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION. The other is A HERITAGE WE GUARD.
8. L. R. Combs, Deputy Director of Division of Information, leaves SCS April 29 to become Director of Agricultural Information in Formosa for Foreign Operations Administration. F. G. Loyd, Regional Information Chief at Portland, replaces Combs.
9. A field committee to discuss records and reports and start preparation of a new Records and Reports Handbook met in Washington April 19 to 23.
10. Meetings of Field Representatives and other Washington personnel with State Soil Conservationists in five geographical areas of the country started in late April and continue in May. State Conservationists will meet by groups with Field Representatives in May for sessions on operations planning. In May and June Karl Kohler, Director of the Division of Engineering, will hold a series of five meetings with SCS State Conservation Engineers.
11. Third Annual National Land Judging Contest will be held at Oklahoma City April 29 and 30. WKY and WKY-TV are sponsors. A number of local groups including SCSers are cooperating. Thirty States are expected to participate.
12. Sears Roebuck Foundation says requests keep coming in for copies of the LORD'S LAND and asks us to call attention to the fact that the booklet is out of print.... no copies available. (P.S. We have none here, either.)
13. Annual spring forecast, based on snow surveys on nearly 1,200 mountain courses, indicates widely varying water supplies for the West. Runoff from melting snow is more than ample in Upper Columbia Basin....some flood possibilities. It is extremely short on Rio Grande River in Colorado and New Mexico. Except in latter area, storage in most reservoirs is above 10-year average.
14. THIS AND THAT: Several State Conservationists report that districts are taking active part in guiding cooperators on use of diverted acres....Numerous districts are going ahead with small watershed programs, working to complete farm conservation plans and application, so they will be in line for help on complete watershed protection....Land judging contests are popular....Interest in teaching conservation in public schools continues to increase with greater demands on SCD supervisors and SCS personnel for help....Complaints about checking ACP practices appear to come mostly from States (or parts of States) where few districts are organized; it takes time anywhere, of course, but apparently a good district makes it easier...
...Taos (N. Mex.) Work Unit reports that Bookmobile (traveling library) also carries conservation movies....National Council of State Garden Clubs in recent annual meeting passed resolution to encourage all States to have Garden Club Committee to encourage teaching of conservation in schools and colleges....New Hampshire State Planning and Development Commission has published NEW HAMPSHIRE WATER, a book

dealing with State and federal agency responsibilities in flood prevention, watershed treatment, irrigation, drainage and other aspects of State's water resources.

15. Massachusetts has 1949 law enabling towns and cities to pass "bylaws" regulating removal of topsoil "from land not in public use." Contractors who build houses sometimes do not save topsoil. Farmers receive attractive offers for topsoil and some cannot resist temptation. In one area several of most productive farms were stripped and left worthless, thus hurting "economy of the community." Several SCDs have helped draft local ordinances or bylaws. Between 15 and 20 towns have passed them.



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.
May 28, 1954

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

To: All SCS Field Offices
From: D. A. Williams, Administrator
Subject: Current Developments

APR 7 1969

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Honeymooners aren't the only ones who are going to be on the road in June. I'm heading for my home state of South Dakota Sunday to spend most of next week with State Conservationist Ross Davies and his staff. I'm looking forward to seeing some of the progress in conservation there. I'm scheduled to talk at Huron June 3. Then I'm meeting with State Conservationist Tom Buie and his people at Clemson, S.C. June 9. I'm planning to be at the National Association's Drought Conference at Amarillo, Tex., June 16. I'm down for a meeting, too, at Hot Springs, Virginia, on the eleventh, and there's an Alabama tour and barbecue in the offing. Some of my friends have been consulting their almanacs and horoscopes and tell me the "hardheads" should be biting in the Chesapeake Bay a week from Saturday. I'll report later on my fisherman's luck.

Current Developments:

1. We are, of course, interested in knowing what our operating budget for the 1955 fiscal year will be. The Senate appropriations Committee has reported out the following:

	<u>Operations</u>	<u>Watershed Protection</u>	<u>Flood Prevention</u>
Appropriations, 1954	\$59,504,279	\$5,000,000	\$6,982,000
Budget Estimates, 1955	55,378,000	5,000,000	5,739,000
House Bill, 1955	59,445,671	5,000,000	6,982,000
Senate Committee Bill, 1955	59,565,671	5,000,000	7,482,000
Increase (+), or Decrease (-), Senate Committee Bill com- pared with House Bill	+ 120,000	- - -	+ 500,000

The Senate appropriations committee recommended the \$120,000 increase in operations for additional plant materials work. The half-million increase for Flood Prevention is to speed up work in the authorized projects which have been under way for several years. Next step is action by the Senate.

2. The subcommittee of the Senate Agriculture Committee, which has been working on watershed bills, has reported to the full committee an amended version of the Aiken bill, S. 2549. The Hope version, H. R. 6788, was passed by the House March 11.

3. I had opportunity to discuss our program and its watershed protection phases before the Rivers and Harbors Congress which met here this week. It was at this meeting that President Eisenhower announced that he was naming a Cabinet water resources policy committee. As you may have read, Secretary Douglas McKay of the Interior Department was named chairman. Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson, Defense Secretary Charles Wilson also have been named to the committee. Others will serve when called upon.

4. Under the leadership of NASCD and of Ray McConnell, the Lincoln, Nebr., editor, approximately 50 people representing organizations interested in small watershed work met in Washington May 19. I understand that committees were named to set up a full-fledged Watershed Congress to be held in Washington early next December.

5. I have called a meeting of the Committee on Policy here the week of June 28. This committee and alternates named by State Conservationists follow:

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Northeast	Lemuel J. Peet	William B. Oliver
Southeast	H. B. Martin	Olin C. Medlock
Cornbelt	Bruce B. Clark	Frank H. Mendell
Great Plains	Kenneth W. Chalmers	Truman C. Anderson
West	Harold Tower	Paul C. McGrew

I have asked them to include on their agenda, among other things, a Service-wide inspection system, and long-range program development.

6. I am looking forward to finishing reading a new book written by two former SCS employes. The book is titled "The Flood Control Controversy." It is by Luna B. Leopold, now of the U. S. Geological Survey, and Thomas Maddock, Jr., of the Bureau of Reclamation. It was published by the Ronald Press Company of New York City, and the study was sponsored by the Conservation Foundation. To me it is more than interesting reading. Subtitle of the book is "Big Dams, Little Dams and Land Management."

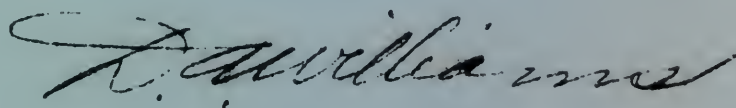
7. Plans have now been completed for strengthening the technical training program of the Service by the development of subprofessional and professional training centers in all the areas of the country except the West. Plans for the West are being considered and studied. When completed, these will be adequate to meet the West's needs. The States in the Cornbelt area and the Northeast area are going to use the facilities of the Coshocton Training Center in Ohio. A professional session is going on there at the present time. The Southeast area is proceeding with plans to set up the training center at Athens, Ga., on the campus of the University of Georgia. The Northern Great Plains area, which includes the States of Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, is setting up its training center at Ft. Robinson, Nebr. Texas and Oklahoma are to use a common training center at Lubbock, Tex., and Texas and New Mexico will use the facilities at Terrell, Tex.

8. The technical help programs have now been completed for the whole country for the last half of this calendar year. At both the Denver, Colo., and Spring Mill, Ind., operations planning conferences, as well as those held previously in other sections, State Conservationists and field-based Washington technicians drew up satisfactory schedules. These should go a long way toward the teamwork necessary in providing the special technical help needed to deal with the complex land and water problems.

9. We're continually hearing of accomplishments that make us proud not only of the folks who are doing such good work in SCS right now, but also of SCS "alumni" whose work we still follow even though they're in other agencies. Did you see the story about the camera that takes pictures of atom bomb explosions at the rate of 15 million a second? That camera was developed by Berlyn Brixner, who for many years was a photographer with SCS at Albuquerque. His new camera replaces an earlier, slow job he invented that took only 3.5 million pictures a second! Brixner left SCS to work at Los Alamos, New Mexico, on the University of California scientific staff beginning in the early hush-hush days of the atom bomb.

10. I'm getting a thrill serving on the National Conservation Committee of the Boy Scouts of America. Our committee was responsible for the National Conservation Good Turn program launched in March. Throughout the country Scouting officials have reported the success of the program. In this connection the attention of the National Executive Committee of the Scouts has been called to the outstanding soil conservation projects that have been carried out in New Jersey, Oklahoma, and Colorado. I thought it was interesting, too, that in the heart of New York City several troops produced store window displays on soil and water conservation. I want to take this opportunity to thank the literally thousands of you field people who have helped make this program a success. This extra curricular activity on the part of many Service people is most unselfish and a real contribution to a better nationwide understanding of our work. State Conservationists' reports have called attention to many novel programs of Scouts since the good turn program was launched. Your efforts in this connection are really appreciated.

11. State Conservationists will meet here the week of September 20 for a consideration of our program from a nationwide perspective. I have asked Dr. Austin L. Patrick to chairmen the program agenda for this important session. At our Washington staff meeting recently at which Extension Director C. M. Ferguson spoke, I invited him to talk at the State Conservationists' meeting. He accepted. We believe that Secretary Benson and Assistant Secretary Coke will also be available to schedule some time with us.



All Washington and Field Offices

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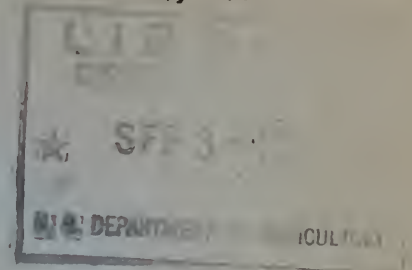
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.
June 14, 1954

To: All SCS Field Offices

From: D. A. Williams, Administrator

Subject: Current Developments



Maybe my fishing friends can charge their usual poor fisherman's luck up to the weather. It was 96 in the shade yesterday and today's the same. On my trip to South Dakota, I saw the crops looking as well as I've ever seen them in the eastern part of the State. Enjoyed seeing old friends and a lot of real conservation work. My trip to Clemson, S. C., was a profitable one, too. Hot Springs, Va., was cool and pleasant during the sessions of the American Plant Food Council. In his address at Hot Springs, Secretary Benson said that "there's no point in wasting our resources. There's all sorts of good common sense in preserving and building up fertility. We must use all available measures better to improve our resources." In concluding, the Secretary stated that "We can provide in ample abundance the food and fibers we need. We can do it through research and education, through conservation of our natural resources, and through the expansion of markets. We do not have to fear abundance if only we learn to use it wisely. Facts are the answers to fears. With the help and blessing of a kind Providence, let us go forward in search of those facts."

I'm off tomorrow for the NASOD's drought conference at Amarillo. Next week I'll be in Montgomery, Ala., a couple days for the tour of the Central Alabama Soil Conservation District and the barbeque. And it looks now as if I'll be in Alaska on SCS and Department business the latter part of July.

Current Developments:

1. The Soil Survey staff reports progress on plans for cheaper, more useful published soil maps. An experimental set of soil maps will be printed for a county in Virginia. Maps will be on a scale of 1:20,000 (3.17 inches to the mile), on aerial photograph base, with soil boundaries and symbols shown by red overprint. Sheets will be about $11\frac{1}{2} \times 15$ inches. Each sheet will be folded once and bound to make a folio the size of Census publications, about $9\frac{1}{4} \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ inches. A spiral or plastic binding, to lie flat when opened, will be used if practicable. The folio will include a small-scale map of soil associations in the county. Each State Conservationist will receive copies as soon as they are ready, probably in late summer or early fall. If reaction is favorable, plans will be made to produce regular soil survey reports and maps in similar format.

2. We are anxious to see that we do our share to make the research in soil and water technology as effective as possible from our standpoint. I hope that by this time you've had opportunity to study and give thought to the program outlined in Administrator's Memorandum 40, dated May 10, 1954, and developed in my joint letter with Byron T. Shaw, ARS Administrator, issued May 12 to State Conservationists.

3. I was sorry to learn of the auto-train collision death May 22 of A. Golden Kilburn, Extension Soil Conservationist, at Utah State Agricultural College, Logan. Mr. Kilburn had been doing an effective job in Utah for years and was equally well liked by Soil Conservation and Extension folks there.

4. The Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee last Thursday ordered favorably reported with amendments the House version (H.R. 6788) of the Hope-Aiken watershed protection bill. The bill would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with States and local agencies in planning and carrying out works of improvement. As reported in the Congressional Record Daily Digest, the major amendments adopted by the committee would:

"1. Eliminate requirement that each project be approved by the Senate and House Committees on Agriculture; 2. Require that application of local organization for a project be approved by the appropriate State agency, or if no authorized agency, the State governor; 3. Require local organizations to acquire land, easements, and rights-of-way necessary for project, but delete provision requiring them to turn such land and rights over to the Federal Government; 4. Require compliance with State water rights laws; 5. Require local organizations to secure agreements that not less than 50 percent of the land above a retention reservoir installed with Federal assistance will be treated with proper soil conservation practices; 6. Delete authority of the Department of Agriculture to contract for construction of works of improvement in watershed projects; 7. Require approval of the Congress of any dams providing between 2,000 and 5,000 acre-feet capacity; and 8. Provide that the President shall prescribe rules to assure coordination of the work under the act and related work of other agencies."

5. J. R. Sasser, Tennessee's State Conservationist, sent us a copy of the "First Annual Report, 1954, Wolf River Watershed." The pretentious report carries many illustrations in its 20 type-set pages. Included in the watershed are two tributaries--Marys Creek and Sand Creek--which authorized pilot watershed protection projects. The report was issued by the Wolf River Watershed Association. Wolf River empties into the Mississippi at Memphis. Its headwaters are in Mississippi, which is also represented in the Association.

6. The Latah County (Idaho) Soil Conservation District has employed a novel way in the Palouse country to demonstrate how much soil is lost from hillsides by erosion. School kids put the washed soil back.

The unique demonstration, which attracted 400 spectators, showed that 18,611 pounds of soil were lost on a tenth of an acre of land. This would amount to more than 93 tons per acre washed away.

Members of the Moscow, Troy and Genessee, Idaho, Future Farmers of America Chapters and Moscow educational class used shovels and wheelbarrows to gather the soil that had washed downhill during the later and early spring.

Two Moscow bankers, Charles Walton and Reuben Bauer, weighed the soil. The boys dug 114 loads of soil from the bottom of the hill and pushed them up to fill in the crevices. The loads averaged 350 pounds.

The University of Idaho Agronomy Department and our Service cooperated with the district in the demonstration.

7. J. H. (Heinie) Christ has recently arrived in Honolulu from Portland, Ore., to take over as territorial conservationist for Hawaii. Heinie's replacing Walter Sykes, who's returning to the mainland after 6 years on the islands, during which the territorial enabling act was passed and 13 soil conservation districts were formed. Walter's going to be administrative officer of the California State office at Oakland on his return from the Islands. Best wishes to two of the most faithful long-time SCSers, Heinie and Walter,

8. The Coastal Soil Conservation District in Georgia has petitioned for dissolution of the present multi-county SCD and organization of the present district into five countywide SCDs.

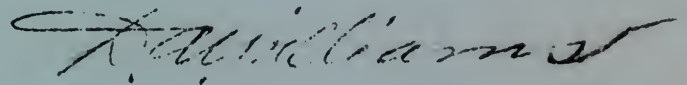
9. State Conservationist Tom Kennard of Ohio has set up a Service committee for the strengthening of information work.

10. Organization of the Shawnee County SCD completed district organization in Kansas.

11. The Senate passed the 1955 agricultural appropriations bill. The SCS portions were the same as reported out by the Appropriations Committee (See May 28 Current Developments) except that on the floor an additional \$1,000,000 was added for watershed protection. The amended bill has been returned to the House.

12. Governor Phil M. Donnelly has proclaimed and Missouri is observing June as "Soil Conservation District Month." In his proclamation, Governor Donnelly noted that 1954 makes the tenth anniversary of operation of soil conservation districts in Missouri.

13. W. A. (Bill) Rockie, soil conservationist emeritus, paid the Washington office a visit on his return from a year's study of the Sahara and its environs. He made a soil and land use study for the International Sahara Sudan Scientific Expedition of 1953-54, sponsored by UNESCO. He and Mrs. Rockie were returning to Portland, Ore., where for years he was with the office there. Orville Hosmer, another one of my Portland office friends, also stopped in. Hosmer is back from Indo-China for a brief visit, before returning for another FOA assignment.



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.
July 15, 1954

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

APR 7 1969

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

To: All SCS Field Offices
From: D. A. Williams, Administrator
Subject: Current Developments

Boy, is it hot! But that isn't the only reason we're late again on this issue. My editors were too busy, or sumpthin'.

Meetings at five locations throughout the country are getting underway to launch the 1955 Agricultural Conservation Program of the Department. I have asked State Conservationists or one of their staff to be at the sectional meetings with the ASC and Extension folks.

I have had a continuing interest in the Department's Agricultural Conservation Program that predates the period that I was loaned from the Service to head the program for an interim.

We have come a long way in the last three years. Tremendous progress has been made in practically all counties in terms of a better understanding of the conservation job on the land. On the credit side too, we find a better understanding between district supervisors and county committees, an improved understanding of standards for practices, and a more thorough follow through.

For the 1953 calendar year, our field force serviced 600,000 ACP cooperators, giving them technical help with their permanent conservation practices. Approximately 60 percent of the ACP referrals was from farmers who were district cooperators or who became cooperators by the time the ACP help was completed.

It has taken time and patience on your part to discharge effectively our responsibilities in connection with the ACP program. Through your efforts a great deal of the public criticism of doing unneeded work has largely been removed.

And before I leave the subject of ACP, I want to again encourage you to bear in mind the opportunities we have for service in connection with the diverted acres program through our land capability and proper land use approach.

Current Developments:

1. The House-Senate conferees on the Hope-Aiken watershed protection legislation have been named, but as far as we know have not met as yet.

2. The House Committee on Agriculture has ordered reported Senate bill 3137. The Senate has passed this bill which would extend the provisions of Water Facilities program nationwide. It also would change the limitation on loans and projects and provide for insured loans. The House Committee amended the Senate version to

include authorization for loans for soil and water conservation measures under the same provisions as those for loans for water supply and utilization. The report, however, is not yet available.

3. The new Catalog of Conservation Practices is about to be mailed out as part of the handbook prepared by the Conservation Needs and Records Branch, R. W. (Buck) Rogers reports. Separates are to be made available to personnel who need the Catalog but who do not receive the handbook. The Catalog was prepared by a committee of field and Washington office men.

4. A. R. Acheson, senior engineer of New Zealand's Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Council, is arriving in San Francisco this week for a United States visit to exchange experiences and consult with SCS people. Acheson will travel through the Northern and Eastern States and spend several weeks in Washington before returning to the West Coast via the Southern States. He is principally concerned with the engineering phase of soil conservation and watershed protection, but is also interested in general administration, training, research, cost-sharing and other aspects of the Department's work in soil and water conservation.

5. The ARS's Soil and Water Conservation Research Branch under Dr. Salter is planning to issue a quarterly report which will help meet the need for effective regular communication to personnel of the Service. Dr. Salter's men have been very cooperative in making results of current work available in the form of publications, reports and summaries at Field Days. Often unpublished results are given, and these preliminary findings are for In-Service use only.

6. Noted in the State Conservationists' monthly reports:

OHIO---About half of the districts are getting financial support, ranging from a few hundred dollars up to \$3,000 a year, from the County Commissioners.....
GEORGIA---300 ministers observed Soil Stewardship Sunday and approximately 47,000 people attended and participated in the service.....
MICHIGAN---The State's 71st soil conservation district came into being in May.....
MINNESOTA---The State Committee has approved the 66th and 67th districts.....
NORTH DAKOTA---A Red River watershed has been organized.....
SOUTH CAROLINA---The Lexington County Delegation this year is donating \$500 instead of the usual \$300 for district activities in the county.....
TEXAS--Governor Allan Shivers toured the Deep Creek Watershed with Service personnel.....
WYOMING---Three new soil conservation districts were added this spring.....
DELAWARE---The \$100,000 appropriated by the State in 1949 as loan for purchase of heavy earth-moving equipment has been amortized by the districts within the prescribed 5 years.

7. The current issue of Collier's has a constructive article, "Oasis In The Dust Bowl." Since the drought problem is a nationwide discussion topic, I would like to encourage all SCS people to read the article by the magazine's staff writer, Bill Davidson, who has effectively presented the promising as well as the distressing aspects of the Great Plains problem. H. H. Finnell, wind erosion authority, has the lead article in the July issue of Scientific American. Title: "The Dust Storms of 1954." And we understand that in the near future Look will carry a Dust Bowl picture feature.

8. The July issue of Agricultural Research issued by the ARS features an observational study made by F. J. Crider, retired SCS nursery division chief, at Beltsville. Crider found that if you remove too much of the grass' top growth by grazing or mowing it too closely, the roots will quit growing until tops recover. For details,

see your circulating copy.

9. We have loaned Carl B. Brown, director of the Planning Division, to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, for a 6-week assignment in Japan as a consultant on land development and water conservation. Brown left on his assignment this week.

10. Our recently established Central Technical Unit, attached to the Washington office Engineering Division, is now in operation at Beltsville, Md. One of the new unit's functions will be to assist in the development of hydrologic and sedimentation procedures and methods and in the evaluation of procedures now used in the States. It will also evaluate the physical effects of land treatment and watershed protection programs of the Service in selected watersheds and develop, improve and recommend procedures for this purpose. Field requests for the assistance of the Technical Unit are being handled through the Field Engineering and Watershed Planning units.

11. Since a change in plans has necessitated postponement of my Alaska trip, I'm hoping I'll be able to grab a few days' leave so I can get out the hammer and saw to work on the room in our basement that has been neglected. And in this 100-degree weather, a basement's a pretty good place to be in.

W. Williams

All Washington and Field Offices

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.
July 20, 1954

To: All SCS Field Offices
From: D. A. Williams, Administrator
Subject: Current Developments

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APR 7 1969

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

This is a sort of an "EXTRA-Read All About It" issue, but I do want to keep you posted on the fast-moving legislative developments.

Tremendous new opportunities for us to help step up the rate of progress in soil and water conservation are emerging from the current session of Congress.

As this new legislation affecting watershed work, insured credit for soil and water conservation work and income tax credits for conservation expenditures becomes law, we will have greatly expanded fields in which to supplement our going program. These new features greatly augment the SCS and other federal agencies in bringing additional forces to bear on the conservation problem.

The measures nearing enactment are:

1. H.R. 6788--the Hope-Aiken Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention bill.
2. S. 3137--to amend the Water Facilities Act--which would extend the Water Facilities Act nationwide and also provide credit for conservation work.
3. H. R. 8300--to revise the Internal Revenue laws---which contains a section authorizing farmers, for income tax purposes, to treat as deductible expenses expenditures made for soil and water conservation work.

As of July 20, the Hope-Aiken bill was within two steps of becoming law. The House-Senate conferees had issued their report, and it had been adopted by the Senate. It remained for the House to adopt the report, thus sending the measure to the White House for signing into law by the President.

The Hope-Aiken bill's purpose is to carry out the upstream watershed recommendations in President Eisenhower's July 31, 1953, message to Congress. The measure authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with States and local agencies in the planning and carrying out of works of improvement for flood prevention and the agricultural phases of the development, conservation, utilization and disposal of water.

Secretary Benson has indicated that he intends to assign the carrying out of the provisions of the bill to the Soil Conservation Service and the Forest Service, with the primary responsibility for leadership in the Soil Conservation Service.

As resolved by the House-Senate conferees, the bill provides for:

1. Authority for the Secretary of Agriculture to assist local organizations in preparing and developing plans for works of improvement. This can be done immediately upon approval of application of local organization by the authorized state agency or Governor or within 45 days if no action is taken by the State agency or Governor.
2. Authority to work on a watershed basis in watersheds of 250,000 acres or less. A number of such watersheds, when they comprise parts of a larger watershed, may be planned together if the local sponsoring organizations so desire.
3. Installation of single structures storing less than 2,500 acre-feet without specific approval by resolution of the Senate and House Committees on Agriculture. These committees must approve all plans which have single structures with a storage capacity of between 2,500 and 5,000 acre-feet before appropriations can be made.
4. Authority for the Secretary of Agriculture to contract for construction of structures (dams) until July 1, 1956, in those states in which local organizations do not have authority to enter into such contracts.
5. Local sponsoring groups to secure rights-of-way, assume equitable share of cost, arrange for operation and maintenance, acquire necessary water rights and get agreements from owners of more than half of the lands in watersheds above dams to carry out soil conservation programs.

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You will be receiving through channels detailed information about the new bills strengthening conservation as they are enacted into law. In the meantime, this will give you the highlights so that you may begin to help answer questions.

I would like everyone in the Service to understand the three laws and to help soil conservation district governing bodies and other local groups examine the laws in light of their local problems, needs and responsibilities.

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The Hope-Aiken act offers local watershed groups which are willing to assume responsibility and a share of the costs the opportunity to call for and obtain in a reasonable time federal assistance in solving their water management problems.

The Service has already had correspondence with approximately 800 local groups interested in carrying out watershed protection work.

To finance the Hope-Aiken watershed program, a supplemental appropriation request for \$3,000,000 has been forwarded to the Congress by the President.

In general the work under the Hope-Aiken legislation will follow this pattern:

1. The Hope-Aiken legislation provides a fresh opportunity for local watershed groups to obtain Federal assistance in studying and solving their major water-management problems on a watershed basis. The problems may be those of flood prevention or the agricultural phases of the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water. Local people must initiate all action under the Act, and must be willing to share a substantial part of the costs in accordance with the direct benefits they will derive. Federal help is available only to assist local organizations to plan and install those needed flood-prevention and water-management measures that cannot feasibly be installed under other current national conservation programs. The Federal funds provided under this authority may not be used to increase the rate of financial assistance for land-treatment measures in excess of the current rate under existing national conservation programs.

2. After the local people, in the form of a local organization, have determined that they are interested in sponsoring an authorized watershed program, they may submit an application for planning assistance to the Secretary of Agriculture. This application would be reviewed and, if not disapproved by the appropriate State agency or the Governor, would be forwarded to the Administrator of SCS. After the application is received by the Department, the local organization will be assisted in making the necessary field investigations and surveys and to prepare work plans. The end product of the investigations and surveys will be a watershed work plan spelling out the recommended program as agreed upon and in conformance with the wishes of the local people.

3. The Department will also make those studies which are necessary to determine the effects of the recommended program on the water-management problems of the watershed and the economic soundness of the over-all program. These studies will determine the approximate benefits to be derived by the local people and will be used in determining their share of the costs.

4. After the plan is completed, a 60-day opportunity is provided the Army Engineers and the Interior Department, if either or both are directly concerned, to review and make recommendations upon the plan. The Secretary then transmits the plan and any recommendations of the other agencies to the Congress. Forty-five days then must elapse before installations involving Federal assistance are begun. In addition, the plans involving structures of between 2,500 and 5,000 acre-feet must be approved by resolution of the House and Senate Agriculture Committee.

5. The Act provides for obtaining broad cooperation and assistance from other Federal agencies in carrying out the watershed program, including the installation of measures needed on public lands to help solve the problems of the local people.

6. It revokes the authority of the Department of Agriculture to make flood prevention surveys, except on watersheds now authorized for operations. Also revokes authority to carry on flood prevention operations on other than the 11 presently authorized watersheds.

7. Authority for work on the 11 authorized flood control watersheds is not repealed under the new legislation, and we anticipate the operations of the pilot

watershed protection projects will be carried on under their present authority.

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S. 3137---to amend the Water Facilities Act---as reported to the House July 19:

1. Extends the Water Facilities program of assistance in water supply and utilization to all states and territories. Formerly it applied only to the 19 western states.

2. Modifies the limitation of \$100,000 for any project to a limitation of a \$25,000 loan to any one person and \$250,000 to any corporation or agency.

3. Provides for insured loans in addition to direct loans.

4. Authorizes loans for soil and water conserving or drainage facilities on a direct or insured basis under the same limitations as those for water supply or utilization.

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H.R. 8300--to revise the Internal Revenue laws--the different views of the Senate and House are now being worked out in conference. However, the provisions of the item allowing farmers to treat as expenses, for income tax purposes, expenditures for soil conservation measures are not in serious conflict between the two Houses. Expenditures for "treatment or moving of earth including (but not limited to) leveling, grading and terracing, contour furrowing; the construction, control, and protection of diversion channels, drainage ditches, earthen dams, watercourses, outlets, and ponds, the eradication of brush and the planting of windbreaks" are those named in the Senate-passed version as being deductible as expenses. The amount deductible in any given year may not exceed 25% of the gross income derived from farming during the year. However, any excess is deductible in subsequent years subject to the same limitations. The Senate version also allows the deduction as expense of assessments "levied by a soil or water conservation or drainage district" to defray expenditures made by such district which if paid by the taxpayer would constitute expenditures deductible under the new authority.

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In closing I want to again emphasize that the forthcoming legislation will give us new tools to help us strengthen our present program. In no sense is the new legislation intended as a substitute.

R. A. Williams

All Washington and Field Offices

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.
August 10, 1954

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APR 7 1969

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

To: All SCS Field Offices
From: D. A. Williams, Administrator
Subject: Current Developments

Guess I'm going to have to watch my appetite for South Carolina peaches and the like when I'm out on the road. Here's why: Governor Anderson of South Dakota, a friend of college days, introduced me last week at a meeting held at the state capitol in Pierre. After a preliminary remark or two, he remarked: "Don's quite a bit more muscular than he was in our college days."

The Governor, by the way, gave a forceful conservation talk to the Service and Extension folks at the meeting arranged for by State Conservationist Ross Davies and Extension Director George I. Gilbertson. I am sure the meeting will have a beneficial effect in furthering the right attitude and the right kind of relationships between Extension and us in South Dakota.

To further help gain understanding, I have arranged for a panel at the State Conservationists' meeting here next month which will discuss our relationship problem in a constructive vein. On the panel will be Paul C. McGrew, Washington State Conservationist; L. C. Williams, Kansas Extension Director; C. M. Ferguson, Federal Extension Service Director; and Gladwin Young.

Director Ferguson and I are agreed that a soil conservation district farm conservation plan will provide an ideal base on which the Extension Service can help a farmer build a workable "farm unit" plan involving better farm management, improved farm family living and increased profits. When all of us understand Extension's unit approach and can better harmonize our two agencies' respective activities, we will have made real progress in this regard. The unit approach is sound in principle and if carried out properly can be helpful to the entire conservation program.

I also enjoyed participating last week in the Black Hills meeting of the Great Plains Council at which Under Secretary Morse was the main speaker. This Council is helping to point the way to a more stable agriculture for the 10 plains states.

Current Developments:

1. The Hope-Aiken Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Bill became Public Law 566 of the 83rd Congress August 4 when President Eisenhower affixed his signature to the Act. The Service is carrying out plans to begin to process applications of local organizations as soon as funds become available to carry out the law. The details will come to you through channels.

All Washington and Field Offices

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2. The bill to amend the Water Facilities Act which would provide credit for conservation work as well as extend the Water Facilities Act nationwide is now awaiting action by the President, after having passed both Houses.
3. The revision of the Internal Revenue laws which would permit farmers to treat expenditures for soil and water conservation work as expenses for income tax purposes also is at the White House for President Eisenhower's consideration.
4. The Department's Field Services Review Committee is currently studying USDA field operations and relationships at points in three states. The study's purpose, according to Secretary Benson, is to improve efficiency and is not related to any reorganization considerations.
5. The Department of Interior's technical review staff has issued a report outlining a need for speeding up soil conservation activities on the department's lands. The report estimated that the needed work would cost approximately \$250,000,000 and that "the task should be accomplished in the next 20 years if it is to be effective in restoring depleted land and preventing greater damage."
6. The recently issued Department Regulation 1347--Supplement 1 places the coordination of mapping activities of the Department in the Forest Service. That Service will now handle the Washington, D. C. coordination functions in connection with mapping that were formerly handled in the Secretary's office. This will in no way affect field mapping activities such as those connected with the Soil Survey, etc., but will deal with such things as new aerial photo flights and the like.
7. Federal Extension Director Ferguson and State Extension Directors Shawnee Brown of Oklahoma and Leroy Hoffman of Indiana have scheduled a meeting in Chicago August 13 with President Davis and some other officers of the National Association of Districts. They will consider agreements between soil conservation districts and the Extension Service. Directors Brown and Hoffman are members of the Committee which met with SCS representatives in Chicago in March and outlined principles for better Extension-SCS working relations.
8. Deputy Administrator Gladwin Young is representing the Service in the activities of the Cabinet Committee on Water Resources Policy headed by Interior Secretary McKay.
9. The general committee planning the National Watershed Congress to be held here December 6 and 7 consists of C. R. Gutermuth, vice president of the Wildlife Management Institute; Waters S. Davis, Jr., president of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts; E. R. Cotton, president of the American Watershed Council; and Raymond A. McConnell, Jr., editor of the Lincoln, Nebr., Journal.
10. The Santa Fe Railway has estimated that wind erosion in the Southern Great Plains has cost the system approximately \$250,000 in the last few months.
11. Several State Conservationists have added student trainees from the agricultural colleges for summer training.

12. You will be interested in Administrator Ferguson's article on "Making Conservation a Part of the Total Farm Business" which appears in the July issue of the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation.

13. Copies of Agricultural Handbook No. 61 have been sent to all field offices. Enough were sent through State Offices to supply all State staffs, Work Unit Conservationists and Soil Scientists. Separate mailings went to the Engineering and Watershed Planning Units, Field Plant Technologists, and Area Conservationists. This publication, paid for by the FOA, is not for public distribution. It was prepared specifically for the FOA for foreign trainees and to meet needs of conservationists in other countries. We got only enough for our personnel.

From State Conservationists' reports:

UTAH---In the Iron County SCD a committee has been set up to make investigations and a plan of work on the wind erosion area at Buckhorn Flat. The committee includes a district supervisor, a representative of the College of Southern Utah, the county agent and representatives of the SCS, the Livestock Association and the Bureau of Land Management; KENTUCKY---The State Agricultural Experiment Station has added a man to its staff to do research on soil and water conservation; MISSISSIPPI---A new handbook of the Soil Conservation Districts Law is being published; HAWAII---District Directors of Oahu Island have taken steps to organize a territorial association of SCDs; NEVADA---demand for the sound color film produced by the Northeast Elko SCD, "Grass-The Elko Way," continues high; COLORADO---Nearly 1,000,000 acres were added to five SCDs during June; MARYLAND---The State Association of District Supervisors has organized a watershed committee; MASSACHUSETTS---Selectmen of Wrentham have asked the Norfolk SCD supervisors for information about soil-stripping ordinances; TEXAS---One editor made this observation in his paper: "Precipitation is not all; it's penetration that keeps it with us." and "It's not how much but how deep."; IOWA---Nearly 50 SCDs have some watershed activities under way; LOUISIANA---The Calcasieu Soil Conservation District is setting up its own film library, and has purchased seven films to start it; CALIFORNIA---Eleven large-scale field demonstrations of the 3-Point range improvement program are in progress. On the Williams Ranch, Tehama County, fertilized range produced 127 pounds of lamb per acre compared with 11.6 pounds on unfertilized. The current value of lamb gain was \$28.27 on fertilized and \$2.61 on unfertilized; MISSOURI---The Boone County Soil Conservation District sponsored an air tour for State Vo-Ag teachers on June 9 and 10. About 50 teachers took the flight.

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It does a man no good to sit up and take notice, if he keeps on sitting.

To be occupied with what does not concern you is worse than doing nothing.

Williams

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.
August 20, 1954

To: All SCS Field Offices
From: D. A. Williams, Administrator
Subject: Current Developments

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

APR 7 1969

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Just a note before I head for the annual meeting of the Maine Association of District Supervisors. While I'm there I'm going to take a few days' leave for a retreat in the Maine woods.

I've just returned from the meeting of the Illinois State Association at DeKalb. It was a truly fine meeting and I was impressed with the fine spirit among the membership and its excellent leadership. Highlights were panel discussions on the watershed program and on coordination of conservation activities at the district level.

Through channels you'll soon receive President Eisenhower's statement concerning the three legislative actions taken by the 83rd Congress which he said "give important new strength to our national efforts to conserve the vital soil and water resources of the United States."

President Eisenhower referred, of course, to the Amendment to the Water Facilities Act, the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, and the revision of the internal revenue laws.

In commenting on the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, the President's statement said: "The Act recognizes by law for the first time the great importance of upstream watershed protection in our over-all water resource policy....It recognizes in practical terms that the upstream part of the watershed, as well as the downstream part, must be taken into our plans if we are to have the water we vitally need and if we are to solve with maximum effectiveness three of our most challenging problems--soil erosion, floods and drought."

Other Developments:

1. You may be interested to know that the Service is represented by two of our top soils men at the Fifth Congress of the International Society of Soil Science, at Leopoldville, Belgian Congo, this week. Charlie Kellogg and Roy Hockensmith are both taking part in that important conference. Dr. Kellogg, at the request of the British, stopped off in the Gold Coast on his way to Leopoldville to take a look at some soils problems there. He wrote that the weather in the Gold Coast was "about like Washington in May," and that it is "one of the nicest parts of Africa."

2. It looks as though the Department might get about \$1,750,000 to get the watershed protection and flood prevention program under way this fiscal year. At least that's the figure the conferees on the supplemental appropriation bill agreed to.

All Washington and Field Offices

3. We understand the sponsors of the National Watershed Congress, to be held in Washington December 6-7, 1954, are beginning to assemble ideas and materials in preparation for the important discussions that group will hold.

4. The House Committee on Agriculture is planning to print two documents we expect to distribute throughout the Service. These will be fact sheets and questions and answers, one on the water facilities program and another on the watershed protection and flood prevention program.

5. Standard Oil Co. of Ohio has published a booklet, "Water--And You." They intend primary distribution in connection with a series of exhibits around the State. It's an excellent soil and water conservation leaflet.

6. Here and there in State and Territorial Conservationists reports.....TC Christ says Oahu, Hawaii, had one of the wettest Julys in recent years, and on Kauai there was more rain the first half of 1954 than for all of 1953....we could use a little of that surplus....like Nevada where George Hardman says conditions continue badin some of our mainland States....Ohio's Kennard reports that the Pet Milk Co. printed an 8-page pamphlet "Soil Conservation Leads to Prosperity" that was prepared by the Williams County SCD....Recent addition to the San Fernando Valley, Calif., SCD was all of Catalina Island except the resort town, reports John Barnes. From Puerto Rico, Jim Sargent reports one of the highlights of the annual meeting of the Commonwealth Association of SCD Supervisors was an address by the wife of Governor Munoz Marin who showed superior knowledge of and appreciation for soil conservation districts and their work....In Tennessee, merchants of Moscow purchased the right-of-way for three miles of relocated road, as called for in the watershed work plan....and in Michigan, the West Ottawa District demonstrated aerial cover crop seeding on 317 acres of corn on 16 farms....it costs \$1 per acre plus one cent per pound for seed.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.

September 9, 1954

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

To: All SCS Field Offices

From: D. A. Williams, Administrator

APR 7 1969

Subject: Current Developments

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Add Maine barbecued chicken to my new delights. Was introduced to it recently at the summer meeting of the Maine Association of Soil Conservation Districts at Lucerne Lake near Bangor. I was impressed with the stable leadership in the association, and also enjoyed the opportunity of seeing conservation work on farms in two districts in the area. Here I was glad to note the tremendous progress in farm planning and some of the remarkable work in woodland conservation. One of the places we visited was that of a Negro truck farmer, whose conservation way of farming is widely respected.

This week I'm spending a day with our Information people, who are meeting with the Field Information men. Then I'm headed for the Cowanesque Watershed Association meeting in Elkland, Pa., on the 11th. On the 12th and 13th I'll be at the Conference of Iowa Soil Conservation District Commissioners at Council Bluffs. From there I'll go to the Upper Hocking Watershed Field Day at Lancaster, Ohio, on the 14th, and finish the week at the National Soil Conservation District Field Day and Plowing Matches at Olney, Ill.

And the week of September 20, I'll be here with the State Conservationists. I'm really looking forward to this meeting to help develop further our national program of soil and water conservation. We've got lots of ground to cover, and part of it will be accomplished with the 16 committees composed of State and Territorial Conservationists.

Developments:

1. Buck Rogers has summarized your reports which show how the Service fared in fiscal '54. My official and personal congratulations to all of you for progress in the year.

You members of the field staff continued conservation work at a rapid pace. The weighted average of all practices applied was up 4 percent from a year earlier. Basic conservation plans were prepared for 48,600 farms and ranches, 8 percent under the previous year.

The Service assisted an additional 101 districts, bringing the total to 2,589. Technicians helped 188,970 new cooperators in various stages of planning. As of July 1, 1954, the Service was working with a total of 1,454,000 cooperators. Soil surveys were made on 34,834,000 acres and range site surveys were made on 4,486,000 acres.

Many soil and water conservation practices were applied to the land in substantially larger quantity than in the previous year. Contour farming totaled 4,127,109 acres, cover cropping 4,839,091 acres, strip cropping 930,235 acres, seeding range 326,735 acres, tree planting 266,033 acres, farm and ranch ponds 64,521 (No.), and improved water application 949,680 acres. Terracing totaled 47,791 miles and irrigation land preparation 375,093 acres.

In addition to the above work in cooperation with districts, the Service also assisted an increased number of ACP participants on the practices for which the SCS is responsible. We also made a substantial start in watershed protection work in the pilot projects and continued with the installation of A and B measures in the 11 authorized watersheds.

Since the programs that are applied are the results of plans, the need to keep up our rate of planning is apparent. For example, just two more plans per district would have meant that our 1954 planning rate would have exceeded that of the year earlier. However, that rate should be exceeded.

It is encouraging to know that the rate of application of conservation programs to the land continues to increase. The fine teamwork and support of cooperating farmers and agencies helped you make this record. Through channels you'll be receiving highlight summaries of fiscal '54's accomplishments, which you may use for informational purposes. And Buck, by the way, appreciated the full cooperation of the states in getting the reports in.

2. Secretary Benson has invited 20 men to a meeting on resource conservation here September 29-30. Purpose of the meeting is to advise the Secretary in connection with resource conservation problems, including research, education, credit, technical assistance, cost sharing and related problems.

Invited were: Leroy Donald, general sales manager, Lion Chemical Co., El Dorado, Ark.; W. B. Camp, W. B. Camp & Sons, Inc., Bakersfield, Calif.; Ferrington Carpenter, livestock rancher, Hayden, Colo.; Dr. R. G. Gustavson, president, Resources For the Future, Inc., Washington, D. C.; W. Houser Davidson, farmer, Fort Valley, Ga.; George Scarseth, research director, American Farm Research Association, LaFayette, Ind.; Kirk Fox, editor, Successful Farming, Des Moines, Iowa; Floyd E. Lull, president, Smith County State Bank, Smith Center, Kans.; L. Roy Hawes, commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, Boston, Mass.; Alf Larson, area vice president, National Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Hayfield, Minn.; Charles Marshall, president, Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation, Lincoln, Nebr.; Dr. Firman E. Bear, soil scientist, New Brunswick, N. J.; Thomas D. Campbell, rancher and large wheat producer, Albuquerque, N. Mex.; Dr. Richard Bradfield, head, Department of Agronomy, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.; David S. Weaver, director, Agricultural Extension Service, North Carolina State College, Raleigh, N. C.; Charles A. Dambach, director, Wildlife Division, Department of Natural Resources, State of Ohio, Columbus, Ohio; Nolen J. Fuqua, National vice president, National Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Duncan, Okla.; Charles A. Washmon, president, Aldridge-Washmon Co., Harlingen, Tex.; Henry T. McKnight, conservationist, Cornwall Farm, Vienna, Va.; and Corydon Wagner, vice president, St. Paul-Tacoma Lumber Co., Tacoma, Wash.

3. Have had opportunity to see two well done special conservation editions of papers recently--The Allen County News saluted the Allen County SCD August 4. The Waynesboro News Virginian put out a special in connection with the Conservation Action Day, August 28, at which Secretary Benson spoke.
4. The Casper Wyoming Tribune-Herald is completing its third annual Soil Conservation Achievement Contest among the central Wyoming SCDs.
5. Judging from all reports, the 1954 train tour of Louisiana bankers and SCD supervisors through Georgia, Florida and Alabama was another huge success. The group of 155 was led by Marion S. Munk, president of the Louisiana Association of SCDs, and Rupert S. Evans, president of the Louisiana Bankers Association.
6. Wayne Criddle, who was with SCS many years in irrigation research, has recently been appointed on the research and teaching staffs of Utah Agricultural College. For the last few months he has been with George Clyde of the Utah State Water and Power Board.
7. Plans are moving ahead in connection with the watershed protection and flood prevention program. Reports are coming in from State Conservationists telling of the state governor's designation of state agencies to handle the state's part in the selection of watersheds. The selection of watershed work plan parties also is in process. The training sessions for personnel are now being held except for the Northeast and Corn Belt where they have been deferred until next month.
8. We have been requested by the Office of the Secretary to lend it Joy Hopkins and Bill Allred to work on certain aspects of the Field Services Review being conducted by the Department. They will complete their assignments in late October.
9. Almost all of the SCS people have elected to come under the new government life insurance plan which went into effect recently. Four days after the plan went into effect, Jacques Aebli, an administrative assistant in the Virginia State office at Richmond, died. His survivors are the first we've heard of among those of SCS employees to benefit from the new insurance plan.
10. From the State Conservationists:

MINNESOTA---A cooperator with the Swift SCD has turned over 5 acres to the district supervisors for conservation purposes. The supervisors, in turn, are transferring the land to a Boy Scout troop for development of a wildlife and roadside park area.

KENTUCKY---The Marshall County SCD is getting out a well-illustrated booklet on the "What, Why and How of the Marshall County Soil Conservation District." IDAHO---Sponsored by SCDs, 20 countywide grade school soil and water conservation poster contests were held during the 1953-54 school year, an increase of 12 over a year earlier.

NEW HAMPSHIRE---Plymouth Teachers College has been selected as one of three institutions in the country where an intensive study will be made on the curricula in conservation education.

NEW YORK---Conservation was an important topic at the annual Gannett Farm Field Day. The Gannett farm is owned by Frank Gannett of the Gannett newspaper chain and is operated by the agricultural editor of those papers.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.
Sept. 28, 1954

To: All SCS Field Offices
From: D. A. Williams, Administrator
Subject: Current Developments

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APR 7 1959

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Last Friday afternoon we were just beginning to spend an extra hour on "watershed protection and flood prevention" at the state conservationists' conference in the Annapolis Hotel when smoke began to fill the conference room. We kept on meeting till about a dozen fire trucks arrived. As we were filing out, I believe it was New York State Conservationist Stafford who said: "This just proves how hot a topic watershed protection is." The firemen quickly quenched the blaze in the air conditioning system and we were able to finish our session on schedule, even though the atmosphere was still a bit smoky.

Our second annual state conservationists' conference was a noteworthy one. I was highly pleased with the thinking of all our people on the major questions and problems we face. At one point we got this sound advice: "Resolve your worries into problems and then solve them." We accomplished a great deal in that direction, I believe. You'll be getting the highlights of the meeting and of the reports of the 16 committees from your state conservationist. Results will be forthcoming too in the form of many improvements in operating policies and procedures.

I'm just beginning to get caught up with the details and correspondence that poured in last week and the week before when I was in the field. The Cowanesque Watershed Association meeting in Pennsylvania and the Upper Hocking Watershed Field Day in Ohio both were outstanding events and afforded me opportunity to see some conservation on the land. The meeting of the Iowa Soil Conservation District Commissioners at Council Bluffs was a peppy one as well as most constructive.

The National Soil Conservation District Field Day and Plowing Matches at Olney, Ill., attracted huge crowds. There I spent part of a day with Secretary Benson, who was a featured speaker. While at Lancaster, Ohio, I had opportunity to visit with Interior Secretary McKay, who spoke at the Watershed Field Day.

The West Virginia Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America had its annual meeting at Jackson's Mill last weekend. It was a real pleasure to meet many of the states' SCS personnel at this excellent chapter meeting.

Other Current Developments:

1. Assistant Secretary Coke will be chairman of the meeting of the Secretary's Advisory Group on Natural Resources which meets here this week. Several of

All Washington and Field Offices

our folks have been asked to meet with the advisory group. Sub-committees will consider the following fields: Watershed Protection; Water Use on Cropland; Conservation Improvement and Profitable Use of Soils; and Forest and Range Resources.

2. Three of our traveling folks are home again, and, needless to say, we're happy to have them helping to share the Washington office burden again. All returned in time for the state conservationists' meeting.

Ed Graham returned from an extended trip to Africa, the Mediterranean countries, western Europe and the British Isles. He reports a most fruitful trip under his Guggenheim Fellowship.

Charlie Kellogg got back from Africa. From other sources than him we've learned that the paper he presented at the International meeting of Soil Scientists provoked more discussion than any other delivered at the session.

Carl Brown completed his circle of the Globe by returning from Japan via Europe. Carl reports that he gained knowledge as well as imparting some during his 6-week assignment in Japan with the International Bank.

3. Jim Gates, head of our internal audit unit, who has been ill, has returned to the job. Dale Shockley, formerly of the engineering and watershed planning unit at Albuquerque, has transferred here to work with Jim. Ed Garvey, formerly with the Budget and Finance Division, has transferred to the internal audit, too.

4. Have received an interesting and well done publication entitled "Your Soil District of Ralls County, Missouri." The cover carries a statement that the bulletin is "based on a survey of the land in the Soil District."

5. Plans have now been completed for the opening of two new Service Training Centers. The one at Athens, Georgia, will serve the Southeast states with Jackson Bennett of Georgia as the supervisor and Warren Turkett of South Carolina tentatively selected as the assistant supervisor. The first professional session is scheduled to open on November 1 and will continue for five weeks.

The Ft. Robinson Training Center, near Crawford, Nebraska, will open for operation on October 18. The first session will be a professional session for four weeks. Larry Joris of Nebraska will be the supervisor of this Training Center. As yet, the assistant supervisor has not been selected.

6. Of the 21 government employees participating in the Sixth Junior Management Intern Program sponsored by the Civil Service Commission, the Soil Conservation Service has three in this group:

Claude D. Crowley, Work Unit Conservationist, Tennessee
Guy H. Earle, Jr., Soil Scientist, North Carolina
Robert D. Fulmer, Soil Conservation Aid, Alabama

We are especially proud of these men since they survived keen nationwide competition both in written and oral examinations to win their place with this

group. There was only one other candidate selected from the Department of Agriculture. They will be here in Washington for the period September to January.

7. We are also very proud to announce that four SCS employees have been selected by the Harvard Graduate School of Public Administration for a Conservation Fellowship. They will be at Harvard for the full year. The successful candidates are:

Keith Meyers, Area Conservationist, Montana
Charles Cleary, Soil Conservationist, State Office, Nevada
Thomas Day, Soil Scientist, formerly of Alaska
Arnold Bolle, Area Conservationist, Idaho

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"The greater the obstacle, the more the glory in overcoming it."

William

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.
October 19, 1954

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

APR 7 1969

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

To: All SCS Field Offices
From: D.A. Williams, Administrator
Subject: Current Developments

I have transmitted our first national research needs report to Dr. Byron Shaw, the Administrator of Agricultural Research Service. This report is a good start toward fulfilling the understanding we have with ARS that we will keep that agency officially informed of the problems we are up against out on the land and that seem to require more research. The ARS leadership is fully aware of the great amount of hard work that the Service has put into this report and will, I am sure, make best possible use of it. Incidentally, we transmitted with the national report the State reports and the consolidated reports.

Looking ahead to next year's reports, I am asking our people to study the recommendations of the State Conservationists at the recent conference here and let me have any additional suggestions that should be considered before we issue a new memorandum. We want to make sure that all technical personnel of the Service participate systematically in analysis and reporting procedure.

Other Developments:

1. Last week I enjoyed meeting with the Kentucky Association of Soil Conservation Districts at the beautiful Cumberland Falls State Park. I didn't return a Kentucky Colonel, but I was presented with a hickory cane in a little ceremony. President August Threlkeld's Kentucky Association is a strong one and has fine working relations with agencies of state government. Approximately 350 supervisors and guests attended the convention banquet.
2. This week I speak at the Indian Creek Watershed Dedication at Beatrice, Nebr., and then head for Galveston, Texas, to meet with the Directors of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts.
3. W. R. Tascher, Extension Soil Conservationist, recently attended the meeting of the Rules and Regulations Committee for the Fourth National Land Appreciation and Land Judging Contest. He reports that it will be held at the new fairgrounds in Oklahoma City, April 28-30, 1955. A pasture and range judging section will be added to the contest in 1955. Because of this addition, the name of the 1955 event will be the "National Land, Pasture and Range Judging School and Contest."

While this event drew participation from 23 States and 11 foreign countries, with more than 1,000 people taking part in 1954, the principal good that comes from this contest is the motivation of local land appreciation schools and land judging. Tascher estimates that more than 100,000 people took part in such schools and contests in the United States in 1953.

All Washington and Field Offices

4. A farewell party was held here last Thursday for Assistant Secretary J. Earl Coke, who returns next month to Berkeley to resume his post as Director of the California State Agricultural Extension Service. Mr. Coke will continue to serve as a Department consultant and as such will complete the report of the field services review study. Mr. Coke's successor, announced by President Eisenhower, is E. L. Peterson of Salem, Ore., that state's secretary of agriculture.

5. "Nevada Conservation Adventure" is the title of an eighth grade text issued for use in Nevada schools cooperatively by the Nevada State Department of Public Instruction and the Nevada State Fish and Game Commission. Our state conservationist, George Hardman, was a member of the committee that prepared the text.

6. Dr. Grover F. Brown, head agronomist in our plant technology division, has resigned to accept an appointment as head of the agricultural development work for the Arabian-American Oil Company in Saudi Arabia. Grover leaves for his post October 20. His family will join him later.

7. Howard Ream, our research liaison man for the Midwest, has resigned to take an FOA assignment in the Philippines.

8. N. I. Brown has been named assistant state conservationist in Tennessee. His former assignment, state soil conservationist, has been filled by Cal L. Roark, area conservationist.

9. You have no doubt read the newspapers about the visitation of Hazel, the hurricane, to the Capital City. Truly it was a big blow but no reported casualties in Service ranks.

William

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.
November 19, 1954

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

To: All SCS Field Offices

From: D. A. Williams, Administrator

APR 7 1969

Subject: Current Developments

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

An Oregon man, E. L. Peterson this week replaced Earl Coke as Assistant Secretary. On my return from Florida yesterday, I had opportunity to spend two hours with Mr. Peterson. We discussed rather fully the watershed protection program and our program of assistance to districts.

The new Assistant Secretary was a dairy farmer in Oregon before he became state secretary of agriculture there. He is acquainted with our operations in Oregon and is eager to understand our nationwide operations and problems. I am looking forward to helping him develop that understanding in the weeks and months ahead.

Developments:

1. Dr. A. L. Patrick was installed as president of the Soil Conservation Society of America at the meeting in Jacksonville, Fla., this week. Approximately 300 delegates from chapters throughout the country registered. I was pleased to note among the delegates numerous representatives of state agencies and departments concerned with soil and water conservation, as well as federal government agencies other than agriculture. Evan Flory of the Indian Service, Frank C. Edminster, Glenn L. Fuller and I were named Fellows in the Society. Dr. Edward H. Graham was named vice president and Dr. Robert M. Salter was named second vice president. Named to the Council were Dr. Firman E. Bear, Chester S. Wilson and Elmer R. Sauer.
2. Had a very profitable visit with West Virginia Soil Conservation District Supervisors at their annual conference at Jackson's Mill. More than 300 attended the sessions at the lovely state park, which has adequate convention facilities. Through all the session there was high interest in the problems of districts, and the leadership of the association was very much on the ball.
3. Reports of Dykes, Van Dersal, Norton, Rogers and others indicate a lively interest in the recently completed operations management sessions. As you know, each State Conservationist has named either an assistant or deputy to follow through on the operations management in our constant striving for greater efficiency.
4. Enjoyed looking over a recent edition of the Iowa Farm and Home Register section of the Des Moines, Iowa, Register-Tribune. It carried several stories and many pictures reporting the results of the 1954 Iowa Soil Conservation Award Program sponsored by the Register-Tribune in cooperation with agencies and organizations. In the program, there are three divisions: owner-operated farms, landlord-tenant operated farms, and new cooperators with soil conservation districts. The sweepstakes winner is chosen from among the three.

All Washington and Field Offices

5. We are working with Mr. McLeaish of Farmers Home Administration on a joint letter to employees of both agencies regarding our responsibilities and working relationships in connection with the soil and water conservation loan program. It should be out in a reasonable time.

6. A committee headed by Dr. Van Dersal has the administrative procedures manual for field offices about half completed. It will be distributed through state offices to all area and work units. State offices then will supplement the instructions. The committee aims to complete the job shortly after the first of the year. Preparation of the manual was undertaken at the suggestion of several state administrative assistants, and agreement of other states.

7. Several staff members have represented the Service at different sessions of the meeting of the Association of Land Grant Colleges this week. Dr. Kellogg and I attended the National Joint Soil Survey Policy Committee session last Saturday.

8. The Wapeto (Washington) Soil Conservation District supervisors sent us a copy of their 12-page leaflet entitled "Progress Report 1954." The well printed and illustrated booklet was financed by two local farm equipment companies.

9. A Washington paper Sunday printed a long story on the front page concerning what it said was a committee report to the Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. The task force committee on Federal Aid to Agriculture, the paper said, had recommended, among other things, congressional action to place technical aid to soil conservation districts on a grant-in-aid basis. The paper also said that the Committee recommended that ACP be likewise shifted to State administration and control. This naturally has resulted in many questions. As far as we know, the Commission has taken no action on the report and neither has Department of Agriculture taken any official stand regarding recommendations.

In keeping with the season, I'll be at Turkey Run, Indiana, next week for the state districts' association meeting. And a swell Thanksgiving to all of you.

H. Williams

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.
U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE December 3, 1954
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

To: All SCS Field Offices
From: D. A. Williams, Administrator
Subject: Current Developments

APR 7 1969

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Glad to be back in the office today between what is turning out to be a long run of speaking assignments. Now I know what it means to spend a sleepless night. Got grounded early Wednesday on flight between Yakima, Wash., and Nashville, Tenn. Spent from 1 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. at the foggy Chicago airport, but was able to speak at Nashville.

The supervisors' meetings at Turkey Run Park, Ind., Yakima and Nashville all were well attended and of an enthusiastic nature. Saw many old friends at the Yakima meeting, and enjoyed some of their Delicious apples. At Nashville, was impressed by the large number of the young farmers who are taking the leadership among the districts in Tennessee.

My schedule from December 6 shapes up this way: December 6--Georgia Supervisors at Atlanta; December 7--National Watershed Congress here; December 8--Western Forestry and Conservation Association Conference, San Francisco; December 13--Land and Water Conference of the American Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting, New York City. I'm still resolving to get my Christmas shopping done before the 24th.

Developments:

1. Annual inspection of state offices got underway this week with Lee Gaston, Jim Dykes and Bill Allred visiting Wyoming state office at Casper and reviewing the activities with B. H. Hopkins and his staff.
2. We have been informed that the President's rules and regulations regarding the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act will be issued shortly.
3. W. W. (Bill) Page, one-time regional soil scientist at Lincoln, Nebr., and more recently with the Bureau of Plant Industry and ARS, has been named assistant chief of the Soil and Water Conservation Branch under Dr. Salter. He was with SCS from 1935 to 1946. In addition to being at Lincoln, he was headquartered at Indianapolis, Rapid City, S. Dak., and Puerto Rico.
4. We have received inquiries as to the availability of prepared talks given by Washington Office people for full field office distribution within states. In the past, the usual distribution has been 1 copy each to all State Conservationists, plus 25 copies to the State Office affected and 50 copies for use at the meeting involved. Occasionally a talk is given full field distribution. Because of apparent reasons, we cannot undertake to provide copies of all talks for full distribution to all states. However, if the states will let us know, we will be glad to

All Washington and Field Offices

provide automatically enough copies of any such talks made in those states desiring them.

5. Conservation farming, among other things, is suffering a penalty of progress in northern Indiana. Many farms are being dissected by the right-of-way for the new toll road, with underpasses giving access from one part of the farm to the other sometimes several miles away. Farm planners are faced with a tough job of revising farm layouts and rotations, with the isolated segments now usable only for cash crops instead of pasture. Eventual sale or exchange of property to consolidate farm units seems to be the answer.

6. We've seen a number of clippings indicating that the Alabama Conservation Districts' Week, the week of October 31, was widely observed.

7. By now you've probably seen Secretarial Memorandum 1368, "Activities of Department Employees With Relation To General and Specialized Organizations of Farmers." As presently interpreted, the memo will not affect our contractual working arrangements with soil conservation districts. An Administrator's Memo on 1368 that we are now working on will help clarify our work and relations in connection with non-governmental types of associations.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. W. Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.
December 15, 1954

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To: All SCS Field Offices
From: D. A. Williams, Administrator
Subject: MERRY CHRISTMAS

APR 7 1969

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Christmas, a joyful Christian festival, has always been marked by good will and expressions of charity, one of the greatest of the virtues.

Looking back over the year, I'm sure that we've all profited immensely from the virtue of charity with its accompanying patience. As the year ends, the Service is carrying on its nationwide work at a high level, and we are moving ahead in the small watershed field.

Some of you are on different assignments than you were a year ago. All of you have been most faithful during the year and your patience and charity for the reconstituted Service have been exemplary. We begin the new year with more friends and greater opportunities than ever.

May your Christmas be a most joyous one, and may you in 1955 continue to enjoy the many graces of God in a free America.

Other developments as the Yuletide approaches:

1. The Nation's first Watershed Congress here last week was viewed by delegates as an all-around success. Indications at the close of the session were that the Congress would be a continuing affair. More than 300 registered. Interest was widespread. Many diverse segments of the public were represented. Secretary Benson spoke at the Congress banquet on the small-watershed program. Copies of his address have been mailed to state and area offices for routing. Army Secretary Stevens and Interior Secretary McKay also spoke at the banquet session.
2. Wished I could have stayed longer at the Georgia Supervisors' meeting at Atlanta. It was another excellent gathering, with high interest and a large attendance.
3. It was considered significant that soil and water conservation had prominent considerations at the Western Forestry Conference at San Francisco. For the first time the Conference gave a great deal of thought to relation of soil and water to timber resource management.
4. After my talk at San Francisco, I had opportunity to visit the Walnut Creek pilot watershed project across the bay. It was good to get out with the Soil

All Washington and Field Offices

Conservation District Directors and the Flood Control District officials to see the grade control structures and revetments being installed and to informally discuss problems of mutual interest.

5. You may expect to receive an Administrator's Memo within a week or 10 days interpreting Secretarial Memo 1368 in light of our work with soil conservation districts and relations with organizations and associations.

6. Contrary to a rumor, President Eisenhower has not yet signed the Executive Order in connection with the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954. We understand that the order now is being reviewed by the Attorney General's office and should be issued soon.

7. A copy of my talk before the Land and Water Use Conference of the American Farm Bureau Federation Convention in New York City is enclosed.

8. You've no doubt heard by now of the President's order closing all Federal offices Friday, December 24, the day before Christmas, and one-half day December 31, the day before New Year's.

9. In man-bites-dog ceremonies at Malvern, Iowa, representatives of the Omaha, Nebr., World-Herald Soil Conservation program were a bit surprised after they awarded the Mills County Soil Conservation District \$100 in cash. District Chairman D. N. McGrew accepted the award for continuing progress in conservation, and then presented the World-Herald a large painting of one of the retardation dams of the Mule Creek pilot watershed project in the district.

10. We have received a copy of "Soil Erosion Survey of Latin America" issued by the Conservation Foundation and the FAO of the United Nations. The booklet is comprised of July, September and November, 1954, articles in the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation.

11. The December issue of Land Improvement, published at Manhattan, Kans., for land contractors, reprinted most of my speech at the Indian Creek Watershed Dedication at Beatrice, Nebr.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Williams". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the numbered list of points.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.

January 10, 1955

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APR 7 1969

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

To: All SCS Field Offices

From: D. A. Williams, Administrator

Subject: Current Developments

As we move into 1955, we are reminded that the Service this year observes its twentieth anniversary. In 1935 the 74th Congress passed the National Soil Conservation Act, which we refer to as Public Law No. 46. This step opened the way to the development and growth of a sound and effective soil and water conservation program. In the two decades, the nation's farmers and ranchers have with our technical assistance applied the needed combination of soil and water conservation practices to more than one-third of the country's privately owned agricultural land.

All of us can take pride in the strides that have been made. It is my hope that each of us will do just a little more this anniversary year. Then we can refer to it as one of record accomplishments in planning and application as well as the year in which the widespread watershed protection work gets under way.

Other developments:

1. We didn't have a White Christmas here in Washington, but I got a taste of blizzard-like weather in Massachusetts the forepart of that week. I enjoyed the good meeting of the Massachusetts supervisors at Worcester that was well attended in spite of the cold and snow.
2. Last week I attended a joint meeting of the New York State Association of Districts and the Empire Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America at Syracuse. The sessions were lively and constructive.
3. Our first wind erosion report based on December 1 conditions has been officially released. Attention of many was called to it because some of the facts in it got in the hands of the press prematurely. The Secretary's office has authorized us to issue monthly condition summaries based on field reports. These will be made available to the press and our state offices in the area affected.
4. Our participation in the 1954 Boy Scout Conservation Good Turn program greatly exceeded my expectations. Reports from practically all states and territories showed that nearly 2,100 of our technicians and specialists were actively engaged in one or more phases of scout work during the year. It is very commendable indeed that so many of our people volunteer their own time to help with the Scout movement.

Many district supervisors, commissioners, and directors have been active in assisting with the Scout program. Many council camp areas are now under conservation plan. At least 100 of the 540-odd council areas now have been planned for soil and water conservation.

All Washington and Field Offices

Material in the state reports, newspaper clippings, photographs and other items have been sent to Scout officials in New York where a 1954 progress report is being prepared for distribution during Scout week in March of this year.

5. The Service representatives at the Littauer School of Public Administration at Harvard, Chet Cleary, Tom Day, Keith Meyers and Arnold Bolle, spent a few days in the Washington Office over the holidays. This gave them a chance to test out some of their work there with recent developments in the Service and to make use of the facilities of the Service with papers they are developing.

6. Two new Leaflets came off the press last week. Corrugation Irrigation is another in our series of Leaflets on irrigation methods. William R. Stanley, engineering specialist at Baker, Oregon, is the author. Verne E. Davison, biology specialist at Auburn, Alabama, is the author of Lespedezas for Quail and Good Land Use. Notification copies of both of these are being sent to all SCS offices.

7. Several folks in the office now are preparing material for the Budget hearings scheduled for February. President Eisenhower will deliver his budget message to Congress January 17.

8. State inspections are progressing smoothly, and I am pleased with the findings in the reports made thus far.

9. State Conservationist Marv Schweers of Wisconsin quoted the following from Work Unit Conservationist Harold Ryan in his monthly report: "I laid out 37 acres of contour strips on the Louis Sticka farm, Kewaunee County Soil Conservation District. He told me that when he went on his honeymoon 15 years ago he drove through the Coon Valley area (heavily strip cropped) and then made up his mind if he ever owned a farm having sloping land he would install conservation practices. I wish that more of the Kewaunee newlyweds would travel to the same locality."

10. It appears likely that the Department policies on Public Law 566 will be issued in a very few days.

11. Harold J. Swan of our Information Division died of heart disease Saturday afternoon on a Washington golf course while playing with Service companions. Harold had been with the Service since 1940 and came to Washington from the Lincoln regional office in July 1953. He transferred to us from the U. S. Forest Service which he joined in 1935. A University of Wisconsin journalism graduate and a World War I veteran, Harold was news editor of the Missoula, Mont., Missoulian before going with the Department of Agriculture.

12. Enid C. Green, who has been with the Department of Agriculture since 1941, transferred to the Service this week as my secretary. Miss Green, a native of South Carolina, has been in the Secretary's office since 1945. She replaces Emma Andreen, who moved back to Denver, Colo., a few months ago to recuperate from illness. Emma has recovered sufficiently so that she will join the Colorado State office staff next week.



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.
April 26, 1955

To: All SCS Field Offices
From: D. A. Williams, Administrator
Subject: Current Developments

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APR 7 1969

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

The Washington area has its spring clothes on now--and it's beautiful! The white and pink dogwood, all colors of azalea, spirea, viburnum, lilac, tulip, and various other flowers and flowering shrubs help to make this a pleasant time of year.

1. Well, there are other developments, too, to make this spring of 1955 a pleasant one! The Congress has seen fit to provide substantial recognition to conservation efforts through increased appropriations for next fiscal year. Last year Congress appropriated \$74,453,871 for all the SCS items (conservation operations, watershed protection, flood prevention, and Case-Wheeler projects). For next fiscal year the Department recommended a total of \$75,396,200 for these items; the House provided for \$80,612,579 in its bill, and the Senate has provided for \$82,000,000. Now the conferees of the House and Senate must reach agreement on the differences in their bills.

The items which are firm and already in agreement in both Senate and House are \$12 million for watershed protection (up \$4,790,000 from this fiscal year) and \$10,000,000 for flood prevention (up \$804,708 from this year). To be settled by conferees is an item for conservation operations (Public 46) of \$1,387,421 increase by the Senate over House action.

In providing this increase the Senate Appropriations Committee said, "The additional increase recommended by the committee is to maintain and improve the technical assistance provided to farmers, as well as to increase the work on soil surveys, which are the basis of sound conservation planning. The primary purpose of the committee is to make sure that the effectiveness of technical assistance is not reduced or impaired in any respect, but is expanded to the fullest extent within the funds available."

I want to assure our field people that the funds available from these increases will be almost exclusively available to bolster work in the districts. There will be practically no increases in Washington and State offices. There are a few spots where slight adjustments will provide for more effective results. Also, within funds available we must continue to make such adjustments in our operations as will provide more efficient operations.

2. My Policy Committee of five State Conservationists spent all last week here reviewing a number of policy matters. Chief among these were improvements in the formula for fund distribution to the states and factors for equalizing and stabilizing the work load for area and work unit offices. I am happy with the progress

All Washington and Field Offices

made. Further information will be available to the State and Territorial Conservationists on these items within the next few weeks.

3. Monthly reports from State Conservationists indicate some real progress on basic conservation plans. I am happy, too, at the attention being given to and progress made on achieving a better balance in our program and technical operations. Of course, that always needs attention from all of us.

4. Coming up the week of May 9 are two important conservation meetings at St. Paul, Minn., and Memphis, Tenn. While the central purpose involves the ACP for 1956, the programs will encompass matters of interest in the whole conservation field. Attending will be chairmen of State ASC Committees, Extension Directors, State Conservationists, and Forest Service representatives. Assistant Secretary Peterson, Fred Ritchie of ACPS, Chief McArdle of Forest Service, Administrator Ferguson of Extension, Larry Manwaring of Commodity Stabilization Service, and I will participate. Improved programs, more efficient operations, and greater teamwork will be objectives sought.

5. The week of May 15 will find Assistant Secretary Peterson and me seeing some good conservation work (we hope!) in districts and watersheds in Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, and Oklahoma.

6. Secretary Benson has appointed a committee within the Department to carry out a program of action for the long-range solution of wind erosion problems in the Great Plains. Assistant Secretary Peterson and K. L. Scott, Director, Agricultural Credit Services, jointly head the Department Committee. The following agencies have representation on the committee: ACPS, ARS, FES, SCS, CSS, FCIC, FHA, REA, FCS, and FCA. E. A. Norton is the Service representative and will be calling on State offices in the Great Plains for help.

7. Nothing very tangible is known about the conclusions, if any, of the Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. Reports here persist that the Task Force report has been rejected but that a final position has not been taken. We are, however, very optimistic about the ultimate action. (Fred Bailey's column in the May issue of Better Farming says, "Proposal, aired by Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, to turn the SCS over to states is as good as dead. Congress will bury it if it ever gets that far.") I see no reason for not going full steam ahead with confidence in the future.

8. Foremost on my schedule this week is a bit of rest from the pressures of the office, some attention to my backyard, and renewing some acquaintances--with the family, that is!!

Frederick A. Peterson

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.
May 27, 1955

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To: All SCS Field Offices
From: D. A. Williams, Administrator
Subject: Current Developments

APR 7 1969

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Now for a few days in the office following my week in the field with Assistant Secretary Peterson and my attendance at the Midwest Flood Control and Water Resources Conference in Topeka, Kansas. Next week I am spending a couple days in Ohio with Tom Kennard and his area and work unit folks.

The trip with Mr. Peterson was everything we hoped for and more. It was a grand experience to visit with our personnel in cartographic, state offices, area, work unit, and flood prevention locations. It was also grand to visit informally with a good many SCD supervisors and others. We not only saw good work on the land in SCDs and watersheds but we also found an enthusiasm for the job that was most pleasing. (To all who helped with this trip to Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas and Oklahoma, Mr. Peterson and I extend our sincere thanks.)

On numerous occasions Mr. Peterson commented on the high caliber of our people and SCD supervisors, and on the fundamental importance of the "conservation concept," based on sound soil surveys and land use capabilities, as a proper foundation for agricultural programs. He was also enthusiastic about the progress on the watershed phase of the program.

Other Developments:

1. Final passage by Congress of the Appropriation Act for FY 1956 means that we can make allocations of funds very soon for next fiscal year. In our conservation operations we will be able to provide for assistance to SCDs to be organized in FY 1956, step up our soil survey efforts in the Southern Great Plains, and plug a few holes in spots of critical need. Funds will be distributed taking into account adjustments in the formula recommended by the Policy Committee last month. We can also add about eight more work plan parties to service PL 566 and more adequately meet the needs of at least some of the 11 authorized flood prevention projects.

2. The following table gives comparison between fiscal years:

Item	Appropriation 1955 (Adjusted)	Available 1955 (Adjusted)	Budget 1956	Appropriation 1956
Conservation Operations...	\$57,568,579	\$57,568,579	\$55,696,200	\$59,300,000
Watershed Protection...	7,210,000	7,892,718	11,000,000	12,000,000

Item	Appropriation 1955 (Adjusted)	Available 1955 (Adjusted)	Budget 1956	Appropriation 1956
Flood Preven- tion.....	\$8,717,792	\$10,597,223	\$8,700,000	\$10,000,000
Water Cons. & Utilization Projects.....	480,000	804,955	- <u>a/</u>	- <u>a/</u>
Total	73,976,371	76,863,475	75,396,200	81,300,000

a/ Unobligated balances from prior years sufficient to carry on 1956 operations.

3. The Congress has provided for the continuation of our working relations with ASC Committees by extending the 5 percent fund transfer arrangement as it has operated in recent years. This means that we must continue to provide quality servicing for enduring conservation work.

4. Another action affecting the ACProgram came this week when the President signed the bill which repealed the provision that farmers must meet acreage allotments to be eligible to participate in conservation cost sharing. There is no longer any tie-up between conservation cost sharing and acreage allotments.

5. We have heard of radio reports indicating that final action has been taken by the Commission on Intergovernmental Relations concerning the proposal on a grant-in-aid basis for SCS conservation operations. Indications are that the Commission substantially rejected the Task Force report, and made a substitute report which endorses SCD and SCS activities and would--if State Legislatures, Governors, and the Congress approved--permit states to request authority to operate the program on a grant-in-aid basis under standards to be established by SCS. It was also reported that about half the Commission membership objected to any reference to grant-in-aid and filed one or more dissenting statements. Official word will be forthcoming sometime in June when the Commission issues its report.

6. There is a great deal of interest in the Great Plains states in next week's long-range program discussions of Secretary Benson and the Governors in Denver. I am convinced that the Department and the states want to make some real progress in further adapting agricultural programs to the needs of the wind erosion areas in particular. I feel confident that the objectives the Service has worked for so many years will be furthered by this conference. We will be well represented at the meeting.

7. Most of my "help" have been on a busy travel schedule, too, in recent weeks attending to program inspections, special meetings of various kinds, and contributing to training activities. I am pleased at the apparent good results coming from systematic reviews of our work. Better understanding, improved quality of work, more efficient operations, and improved working relations are the things that are most encouraging.

8. The watershed approach to soil and water problems seems to be resulting--in all sections of the country--in greater participation by farmers and ranchers in

conservation treatment of their lands. This probably results from community leadership, group action, local public opinion, focusing of ACP funds on important work, recognizing water as well as soil problems, and good educational and technical help in doing the job. Many, many SCDs are employing the watershed concept even though special projects such as "pilot" or Hope-Aiken watersheds are not in effect or may not be.

9. The Fourth National Land, Pasture and Range Judging Contest at Oklahoma City April 28-30 attracted nearly 1,000 participants from 25 States and 11 other countries. Placings in the 4-H Club Division of the National Land Judging Contest were: First, Miami County, Ind.; Second, Harper County, Okla., and Third, Cloud County, Kans. Chapter placings in the FFA Division were: First, Coyle, Okla.; Second, Bertha, Minn., and Third, Antlers, Okla.

In the First National Pasture and Range Judging Contest, Oklahoma teams made a clean sweep.

10. Special soil conservation editions of the Perry Oklahoma Daily Journal, the Clark County Missouri Courier, the Fredericksburg, Texas, Post and the Radio Post of Fredericksburg, Texas, have been received.

I know you are busy, so I'll close now and write again in a couple weeks.

D. Williams

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.
June 16, 1955

To: All SCS Field Offices
From: D. A. Williams, Administrator
Subject: Current Developments

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APR 7 1969

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Following up the Great Plains Agricultural Conference held in Denver, May 31-June 2, in which our Great Plains State Conservationists took an active part, several important steps have been taken to move farther along with a long-range program that will stabilize agriculture and reduce the physical and economic effects of recurring droughts in that region.

Soil conservation districts in the Great Plains, as well as the NASCD itself, have been asked to review and comment by July 11 on the proposals developed by USDA and state people at Denver. Copies of the report have also gone to many other groups and organizations throughout the country.

Since the conference agreed that rapid completion of a soil survey was fundamental to the entire program, the Service has agreed to increase soil survey manpower in the Southern Great Plains immediately, with a goal of completing field mapping in the more critical areas by June 30, 1959. I have called a meeting in Amarillo, July 6-8, in which SCS and state experiment station people will work out details of this accelerated survey program.

Here in Washington, agency representatives have been meeting almost daily on this subject. They are studying and developing possible modifications in USDA programs that may be instrumental in obtaining the land use shifts necessary for a more stable agriculture in the Great Plains.

Other Developments:

1. From June 23 through July 2 I will visit our personnel in Alaska. This will be the first time an SCS Administrator has been to Alaska since the Territorial office was opened several years ago.
2. I enjoyed my three-day visit with Tom Kennard and his area and work unit men at the Ohio State FFA camp at Leesville Lake, and the Soil Conservation Field Day in Harrison County. The conference program was well prepared, everyone participated, and it was effectively summarized. While in Harrison County the chairman of the soil conservation district took me up in a chartered plane to view the strip mine operations in that area and to discuss the district's problems related to the operation. Up-side-down land with sulphur and slate doesn't produce -- period!

All Washington and Field offices

3. Tom Kennard was more than an interested witness when I caught what appeared to be one of the only two fish in Leesville Lake. Tom landed him. And I'm leaving it to Tom to boast about the size of Ohio's lake fishes.
4. Was sorry I had to cancel my meeting with the South Alabama Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America last week, but I was suddenly called to testify before the Poage Credit and Conservation Subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee in connection with proposed legislative changes of Public Law 566.
5. Congratulations and thanks to all of you! Buck Rogers tells me that application of practices by district cooperators in the calendar year 1954 showed a weighted average increase of 4.5 percent over 1953.
6. Washington and other newspapers recently carried a syndicated story which said the Water and Power Resources task force of the Hoover Commission would recommend in its report that SCS flood control activities be turned over to the Army Engineers. We will not know until the report is issued whether such a recommendation will be made, and whether the Commission will concur. Before the Commission recommendation would have any effect, Congress would have to pass new legislation. Prior to any action by the executive branch, affected departments of government will be given opportunity to comment. Deputy Gladwin Young is chairman of the Agriculture Department's committee that will review the Water and Power Resources Report.
7. State Conservationist H. N. Smith of Texas was with us here last week concerning a proposed watershed protection and flood prevention work plan under Public Law 566. Red and I had opportunity to explain and discuss it with Assistant Secretary Peterson, who felt that the proposal was reasonable. Before he left, Red said he felt quite heartened with the way the work plan was shaping up and the cost-sharing was working out.
8. Ken Chalmers reports from Denver that the Colorado State Department of Agriculture is planning to use the "trademark" we sent out recently on its postage meter. We're interested to know what other uses are being made of it.
9. Assistant Administrator Charlie Kellogg and State Conservationist Ralph Sasser represented the Service at the recent Rural Development Program meeting of the Department with deans and directors of 28 states at Memphis.
10. Governor Leo A. Hoegh of Iowa proclaimed the week of June 12-19 as Soil Conservation Week in Iowa. Frank Mendell wonders if Iowa doesn't hold the record for the longest consecutive period of declaring a soil conservation week. Iowa's first such proclaimed week was in 1938.
11. A few issues back we passed on Territorial Conservationist Sargent's information that in the Puerto Rico district supervisors' election an average of 1,002 votes was cast per district. Now Heinie Christ sends news from Hawaii that in a recent referendum there more than 5,000 votes, all favorable, were cast for the organization of the Mauna Kea Soil Conservation District.
12. We have received special soil conservation editions of the Perry Daily Journal, Perry, Okla., and The Arlington Citizen, Arlington, Texas.

13. We welcomed Glenn Rule back to work this week. Glenn's recovered now from that long siege that involved a bacterial infection of one of the heart valves. Anti-biotics finally brought the case under control.

14. We've received word that in the Sullivan County, Indiana, SCD, a farm family has contributed a 4-H award to the county and specified that it be known as the "Arganbright Award" in recognition of Work Unit Conservationist William Arganbright's contribution to the betterment of agriculture in the county.

15. State Conservationists have selected the following Policy Committee for the 1956 fiscal year:

Northeast: William B. Oliver, Maine; Alternate, Ivan McKeever, Pa.

Southeast: Charles B. Anders, Miss.; Alternate, Olin C. Medlock, Ala.

Cornbelt: Frank H. Mendell, Iowa; Alternate, Charles E. Swain, Ind.

Western: Paul C. McGrew, Washington; Alternate, Josiah A. Libby, Utah.

Great Plains: Harvey G. Bobst, Nebr.; Alternate, Ray Walker, Okla.

16. Arkansas has joined the roll of states whose land is all in soil conservation districts. The Little Rock Gazette paid tribute to the farmers of Eastern Mississippi county on the occasion of their receiving their district charter.

17. The Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee has reported favorably on enactment of S 1041 with amendments. The bill would give credit for retirement purposes for time federal employees served in certain federal-state cooperative programs. The amendments which the report proposes deal particularly with retired employees who would qualify if presently employed. The committee report carried adverse reports on the bill by the Civil Service Commission and the Bureau of the Budget.

18. You can tell your kids that the honest-to-goodness Davy Crockett is associated with soil conservation. The Davy Crockett-Trinity Soil Conservation District is in East Texas.

19. Flash--The annual meeting of State and Territorial Conservationists the week of September 19-23 will be held NOT in Washington but in Lincoln, Nebr. Headquarters will be at the Cornhusker Hotel. Glenn Rule is chairman of arrangements.

Conservation of soil and water doesn't just happen! Its' planned in a systematic manner by farmers and ranchers with the use of soil and water facts and the help of conservationists who know their stuff; it's applied by those farmers and ranchers because they know what they want, how to do it, and have the leadership of aggressive district governing bodies; and, it's maintained because it pays! Because systematic planning results in basic conservation plans, it is always Service policy to work toward that objective. Because on-site technical help is essential to getting conservation accomplished we will fight when necessary to preserve its integrity.

H. Williams

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

July 22, 1955 U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
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To: All SCS Field Offices
From: D. A. Williams, Administrator
Subject: Current Developments

APR 7 1969

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Out in South Dakota we used to say, "It's 95° in the shade and there's no shade. During the strike here, we've had to amend the old expression to "it's 95° in the shade and there's no street car." It's been amazing to me the way Washingtonians have been able to go about their business in the face of no street cars nor busses. It has caused no interruptions in our operations here, and the first morning of the strike many folks actually were early to work. They had anticipated that traffic conditions would result in tieups, which didn't occur.

Other Developments:

1. Had a fine trip to Arizona and Texas last week. The summer meeting of the Arizona State Association of Districts was very well attended. Supervisors met jointly with the Arizona Section of the Range Management Society. Since the Arizona law was changed to permit range lands to be included in districts, more than 14,000,000 acres of range have been added to SCD's there, and there's strong interest, statewide, for much expansion of districts to include all the range.
2. At Temple, Tex., I participated in the State Junior Chamber of Commerce festivities honoring the state's outstanding young farmer for 1955, Clinton Harbers. It was Harbers' outstanding work in cooperation with the Bastrop-Fayette Soil Conservation District that brought him state and national recognition. He was one of four Outstanding Young Farmers of America for 1955 similarly honored by the U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce. I had the honor of formally presenting the state chamber award to Harbers.
3. And I came away from Texas myself this time with something added. I am now officially a "Texan, Second Class." The "honor," as Texans term it, was bestowed on me by the Texas State's Attorney General, John Ben Sheppard. I still have to attain the rights and privileges of first class, which I understand includes some measure of pride in Texas and the inspiration to boast thereof.
4. Representatives of the Engineering and Watershed Planning units met here last week with members of the Washington staff to speed up the processes of developing watershed work plans under Public Law 566. We hope to have 25 watershed work plans completed and ready for consideration by the Congress when it convenes in January 1956, and to complete 45 additional watershed work plans during the current fiscal year.

5. Hal Jenkins, formerly information chief at Upper Darby, has rejoined the Service here as a publications writer in the Information Division. For the last year he has been with ARS.

6. Agricultural leaders, from State agencies and the U. S. Department of Agriculture, expect to launch specific action phases of a long-range program for the Great Plains in the course of their meeting August 24 at Laramie, Wyoming. Meeting under the auspices of the Great Plains Agricultural Council, the representatives of land grant colleges and federal agricultural agencies will review and refine proposals developed during the meeting in Denver, May 31-June 2. Assistant Secretary Ervin L. Peterson and Kenneth L. Scott, Director of Credit Services, will report to the States moves USDA has made to implement the long range program. USDA's Farmers Home Administration, for example, has already launched a new credit program especially geared to needs of the Great Plains. And since the Amarillo meeting the Service has acted to step up its rate of progress in gathering of basic soil data needed as a foundation for adjustment of agricultural programs in the region. The Service will be represented by J. C. Dykes and T. L. Gaston and state conservationists of the area.

7. I'm very pleased and grateful to note that in a number of states the rate of basic farm planning is increasing appreciably over last year's. And I want to thank all of you who are giving attention to this foundation to our work with farmers. I would like to see every work unit make substantial progress this year, and want to commend those who are well on the way to setting records in 1955.

8. Guess all of you have received your retroactive pay checks by now. I'm glad for the pay raise which applied to all Service employees (except me).

9. Had a nice note recently from Bill Allred of our Washington farm and ranch planning staff, who's on a 3-month FOA detail in Teheran, Iran. He's teaching a group of Near East students a course in range conservation. Bill Stanley and Verne Baker of Oregon have just returned to their headquarters after a 2-month stint in Thailand. They were assigned to assist with technical problems associated with water conservation work.

10. The special soil conservation edition of the Harlan, Iowa Tribune I received a few days ago has something that had not come to my attention before in the way of advertisements. A commercial aerial photographer made about 30 oblique shots of different conservation scenes in the Shelby Soil Conservation District. The paper used them to illustrate more than 25 large local advertisements paying tribute to the district and its cooperators.

11. From latest reports Congress will be adjourning fore part of August.

Next weekend I join Jim Sargent and staff and the Puerto Rico Association of SCD's in San Juan. I will write again in early August.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.
August 8, 1955

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

To: All SCS Field Offices
From: D. A. Williams, Administrator
Subject: Current Developments

APR 7 1969

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

My visit to Puerto Rico was concluded about 36 hours before Connie, the hurricane, was scheduled to arrive. There were no hurricanes while I was there. In fact, I was able to cool off a bit in the tropics after the 95 + temperatures of Washington!

It was a tremendous education and thrill to me to meet with SCS personnel and SCD supervisors in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. I found among the supervisors intense enthusiasm for soil and water conservation. When I saw the fine progress that has been made in the conservation work on the coffee plantations, the banana groves, the tobacco and cane fields, and the pasture lands, I could understand the reason for this enthusiasm. The people of Puerto Rico depend very largely upon their agriculture. They have many problems. With the density of population there you see at first hand the dependence of people on land and water. Even an acre or two means a living for a family. Of course, the larger farms of several acres are producing the fuller measure of the necessities of living.

In my four days of travel in the islands I met a friendly, interesting, Spanish-speaking people. And believe me, their hospitality and food were mighty fine, too.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS:

1. Congress has now recessed until next January. Most of the members have now left Washington for home states or vacations. Several of them called before they left and inquired about conservation work in their districts and expressed an interest to see it and to talk with SCD supervisors while they are home. I hope all of us will use such opportunities upon request for assisting members of the Congress to become acquainted with the facts regarding conservation accomplishments, and the methods used in carrying out the work.
2. Unfinished legislation before the Congress will carry over until the January session. There were several items of interest in that setting, including amendments to Public Law 566; the Small Reclamation Project Act; a bill to stimulate further tree planting on private lands; proposals on low-income farm program, etc. Also, the Congress did not provide extra funds to meet the recent pay increase. Supplemental funds must be requested when the new session starts. No action of any sort was taken by Congress on the Kestnbaum Commission and the Hoover Commission reports as they relate to the work of SCS.
3. Applications from 365 local organizations endorsed by the appropriate state agencies have now been received for assistance under the Watershed Protection and

Flood Prevention Act. We have authorized planning assistance on 84 watersheds in 35 states. We anticipate that about 25 work plans will be ready to submit to Congress in January. Legislatures in 20 states passed legislation this year to facilitate the carrying out of this work.

4. Mrs. Dorothy A. DeSpears, a voucher examiner in our Madison, Wis., state office, has been given a \$70 cash award for a work improvement proposal. Mrs. DeSpears' suggestion was for a simplified system for preparing payrolls for WAE employees. It has been adopted service-wide and will result in an estimated savings of more than \$1,600 per year.

5. Special conservation editions received include the Maine Grange Herald, The Independent Record of Helena, Montana, Three Forks Montana Herald and the following from Texas: The Hamilton Herald-News, Greenville Banner, Menard News, Beeville Bee-Picayune, The Comanche Chief and The Panola Watchman.

6. Examples of good use being made of the "Our Soil--Our Strength" trademark illustration are coming in from a number of states. Thanks to all those who have sent them.

7. Sponsors of the North Fork Broad River Pilot Watershed in Stephens and Franklin Counties, Georgia, have issued an informative three-fold leaflet, "Watershed Conservation--A Safeguard for Your Community." It was paid for by the Citizens Bank of Toccoa, Ga.

8. Personnel---J. G. Bamesberger, in charge of the Albuquerque EWP unit, is transferring to Washington as assistant director of the Engineering Division. J. W. Barnard, formerly Maryland state soil conservationist, has transferred to the Washington staff to head up the Conservation Needs Studies under E. A. Norton. M. B. Fussell, who has been Maryland's state administrative officer, has been appointed to Barnard's former job. K. P. Jarvis, formerly a member of Maryland's watershed planning staff, has been named our state engineer there. He took the place of J. Turnbull, who has transferred to ARS. Joe Durkin, investigator attached to our Personnel Division here, has retired.

Adios! Remember that water and soil, and their wise use, are the foundations of America.

H. A. Williams

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.
August 19, 1955

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

To: All SCS Field Offices
From: D. A. Williams, Administrator
Subject: Current Developments

APR 7 1969

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Connie, Diane, and Edith are now familiar names hereabouts -- but they are not on our payroll! Heap big winds and lots of water descended on the Capital City.

1. Last week I had two days in the office, one in Illinois, one in Minnesota, and one in South Carolina. It was good again to meet with the Illinois State Association of SCDs and participate in a discussion on Analyzing District Programs. Illinois has a good live association which is producing conservation results.

2. At Winona, Minnesota, I saw some mighty fine conservation work -- strip cropping, rotations, grass, trees, waterways, etc., on lots of farms. A small watershed with this treatment applied several years ago still has it. And, these second generation conservation farmers wouldn't have it otherwise. Many community benefits from reduced sediment and flooding are apparent too! Who says it doesn't work? The J. R. Watkins Co. farm there, managed by Cy Crawford, President of the Minnesota State Association of SCDs, is really a conservation showplace. Anyone near Winona should not fail to see it.

3. At Spartanburg, South Carolina, the local soil conservation district sponsored a field tour and 20 years of conservation celebration. "Chief" H. H. Bennett and I joined in with the U. S. Senators and Congressmen and the local folks to see and talk about the marvelous progress that has been made. Agricultural stability based upon conservation farming is a fact in that area. (Confidentially, the fried chicken and watermelon are mighty good down that way too!)

4. This is "office week" for the Washington staff. So, the Field Representatives Assistant Administrators, and others have been helping me round up a number of items, get out some new memoranda, etc.

5. Next week I'm going to take two days leave (I hope), attend the Ohio Federation of SCDs meeting at Athens and the State Plowing Matches and Conservation Day at Constantine, Michigan. Expect to see some more good conservation work.

6. Three of our State Conservationists have recently been on the sick leave status. John Barnes of California -- two bouts with the surgeon; Lyness Lloyd of North Dakota -- a prolonged rest period; and Sam Bondurant of Virginia -- an automobile accident injury. We are wishing them all full and speedy recovery.

7. Several members of Congress are here this week cleaning up unfinished business. The telephone is quite busy.

D. Williams

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.
September 27, 1955

To: All SCS Field Offices
From: D. A. Williams, Administrator
Subject: Current Developments

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

APR 7 1969

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Requiescat in Pace

As you probably have heard, Dr. Robert M. Salter, the second chief of our Service, died September 13 following a year of illness. I can only add my voice to the flow of tributes to the life of unselfish service given by Bob. He made a heroic contribution to the soil conservation movement in a lifetime of research, teaching and administrative work in soil science, agronomy and soil conservation. Since November 1953, when he asked to be relieved as head of the SCS for health reasons, Dr. Salter had been chief of the Soil and Water Conservation Research Branch of ARS. Those of us who worked closely with him will miss him very much.

Other Developments:

1. Assistant Secretary Peterson and Secretary Benson are moving ahead toward the establishment of a permanent advisory committee on soil and water conservation. As planned, the committee will be a working committee on a continuing basis to advise the Secretary, his staff and Department agencies dealing with the various phases of the soil and water conservation program. The committee is expected to meet in a month or so to explore fully opportunities and capacities for strengthening the total conservation effort.
2. The Soil Conservation Society had the largest registration in history at its annual meeting at Green Lake, Wis., September 12-14 -- about 800. Edward H. Graham was elected president for 1956. He succeeds Austin L. Patrick on January 1. Other officers for 1956 are: J. S. Russell of Des Moines, first vice president; Russell G. Hill of East Lansing, Mich., second vice president; and Howard F. Barrows, Aurora, Ill., treasurer. New council members are Herbert A. Hopper, Sacramento, Calif., and Harry Chambers, Stillwater, Okla.

One unique feature of the excellent program was the free snack bar operated by the governing body of the local soil conservation district. Society members were served more than 1,300 pints of milk and more than 150 pounds of cheese by the district officials.

The 1956 annual meeting will be held in Tulsa, Okla., October 15-17.

3. Our annual meeting with the state conservationists at Lincoln, Nebr., last week ended with many commenting "it was the best ever." Not only did we have opportunity to see some excellent work in the field and in the small watersheds, but we also devoted a generous amount of time to eight general administrative problems. The considered recommendations of the state conservationists will eventually result in new or clarified policies or giving added attention to present policies.

4. Copies of Assistant Secretary Peterson's inspiring address to the state conservationists have been mailed to all field offices. I would like to commend it to your attention. One paragraph follows: "Recently the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government, the Hoover Commission, issued a report on water resources and power. Among the recommendations of this report was that the construction of headwater dams and the flood control program of the Soil Conservation Service be transferred to the Corps of Engineers. This recommendation does violence to the very fundamental concepts of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act. It ignores the relationship between land management and water management. In fact, it appears reasonable to say that headwater detention structures are, while necessary, incidental and secondary to the treatment of the land lying above them. Merely constructing dams will not do the job of water management, particularly on the small watersheds. It, therefore, seems to me that the recommendation is ill-considered."

5. My trip to Quincy, Fla., for the summer meeting of that state's association of soil conservation district supervisors was an enjoyable one. I was interested in the thorough way the association is promoting its soil conservation public speaking contest among the state's public schools. I also was pleased to note the steps being taken by the Ladies' Auxiliary to push an aggressive conservation program.

6. From Wendell Tascher, we've learned that 73,805 persons took part in land judging events last year. The 1951 figure was 13,321. Last year a total of 13,099 contestants participated in pasture and range judging events. Twenty-five state extension services now have statewide training programs for land judging, and 17 states now have guiding materials for pasture and range judging.

7. The calendar which the Gillespie County, Tex., Soil Conservation District issued for the fiscal year beginning July 1 is the first calendar we've seen that carries "Our Soil--Our Strength" trademark.

8. Had the pleasure of meeting this week with a management group of the Tractor and Implement Division of Ford Motor Company. Twenty-one men spent a day in the Department and a day in Beltsville. I talked to them about long time trends in soil and water conservation and watershed protection.

9. I'm heading out tomorrow for a meeting with Frank Mendell and Iowa's work unit and area conservationists. After that, it's a Black Hills meeting of the South Dakota State Association of District Supervisors.

L. Williams

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Administratively Confidential

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.
October 18, 1955

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

To: All SCS Field Offices

From: D. A. Williams, Administrator

Subject: Current Developments

APR 7 1969

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

The wonderful autumn weather with the rich coloring of the trees is in full swing here in the Washington area. It's hunting time in many parts of the country. But, we don't need to hunt now for people in all walks of life interested in soil and water conservation.

1. Secretary Benson announced today the appointment of an 18-member Advisory Committee on Soil and Water Conservation. It will hold its first meeting in Washington on October 27-28. Members include Leo Anderson, North Dakota; Firman Bear, New Jersey; Bill Durham, Texas; L. Roy Hawes, Massachusetts; T. R. Hedges, Washington (state); Tom Hitch, Tennessee; A. D. Holmes, Jr., Alabama; Mrs. Katharine (Jackson) Lee, New Hampshire; L. L. Males, Oklahoma; Raymond McConnell, Nebraska; Chas. Elliott, Illinois; Edward Baur, Iowa; Carl Shoemaker, Washington, D. C.; William Rosecrans, California; L. W. Garver, Wisconsin, George Clyde, Utah; and Wade Newbegin, Oregon.

The agenda for the committee includes several items of interest to the Service and other agencies having responsibilities in the conservation field.

2. Regrettably, I had to cancel my California trip last week because of Budget Bureau hearings and other matters here. Sorry not to have the opportunity to help launch the new Training Center for western states at San Luis Obispo, Calif.

3. It was grand to meet with Frank Mendell and our field personnel in Iowa recently. It was a good conference. Also, it was mighty nice to be in South Dakota a few days to attend the State Association of SCD's annual meeting in the cool, colorful Black Hills. Incidentally, that Ladies Auxiliary in S. Dak., with about 130 ladies present at the meeting, is going to make a lot of states hump to keep up!

4. The annual Hearings before the Bureau of the Budget regarding Fiscal Year 1957 budget requests were held last week. Of course, the estimates presented by the Department are confidential until released by the President in January. Assistant Secretary Peterson assisted us in presenting our testimony. The hearings were highly constructive and indicated strong interest in assistance to districts as well as in watershed work.

5. Some soil conservation district supervisors have expressed an interest in seeing the in-service quarterly report "Progress in Soil and Water Conservation Research." Although distribution outside official channels would constitute publication, work unit conservationists may use the reports as a means of keeping

supervisors informed of progress in research on problems of concern to the districts. We should bear in mind, of course, that much of the information reported is not sufficiently conclusive to be used in farm and ranch planning or other aspects of the program.

5. Recently we've received an impressive lot of special soil conservation editions of newspapers: The Washington County News, Chatom, Ala.; Clovis (N. Mex.) News-Journal; The Spur Texas Spur; Denton (Tex.) Record-Chronicle; Republic (Wash.) News-Miner; Cochran (Ga.) Journal; Winder (Ga.) News; Bullock Times, Statesboro, Ga.; The Blackshear (Ga.) Times; Lincoln County News, Carrizozo, N. Mex.; Catron County Reporter, Reserve, N. Mex.; Socorro (N. Mex.) Chieftain; El Defensor, Socorro, N. Mex.; Hattiesburg (Miss.) American.

7. Three Service employees now are enrolled in the Harvard Graduate School of Public Administration for a year's study under conservation fellowships. The three Service winners for the 1955-56 fellowships are Norman Berg, area conservationist, Pocatello, Idaho; Alton Mangum, work unit conservationist, DeRidder, La., and Paul H. Carroll, assistant to Dr. Kellogg, Washington, D. C.

8. William A. McLeod, Jr., work unit conservationist at Taylorsville, N. C., has reported to Washington for the 6-month Junior Management Intern Program sponsored by the Civil Service Commission.

9. At Fleming, Ga., last week the Southeastern Tidewater Experiment Station's long-awaited new office-laboratory building was dedicated in ceremonies sponsored by the Coastal Soil Conservation District. Congressman Prince H. Preston of Georgia made the principal address. A number of SCS representatives attended the program and toured the station. Considerable progress is being made in experiments on extremely difficult drainage problems and on the use of tidewater lands for grass and other agricultural crops.

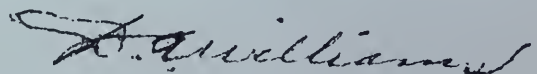
10. For those of you who weren't at the state conservationists' meeting where the announcements were made, we're losing two real top hands through retirement soon. Joy Hopkins, northeast area field representative and J. W. Sargent, Puerto Rico territorial conservationist, are joining the ranks of Service retirees. We're going to miss these SCS veterans, each of whom has approximately 40 years USDA service to his credit.

11. This week I'm taking in a woodland conservation field day at Augusta, Ga., and the next week I'll be on the program of the National Reclamation Association annual meeting at Lincoln, Nebr.

12. Noted among the state conservationists' monthly reports that one, in spite of all the weighty problems and heavy schedule confronting him, managed to slip off for a few days' good fishing. I must own up, too, that I found the trout streams in the Black Hills well populated and the fish hungry.

P.S. To Washington and Beltsville staffs:

I'm pleased to commend you for having exceeded the Service's 1955-56 Community Chest Drive goal.



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE November 7, 1955

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

To: All SCS Field Offices

From: D. A. Williams, Administrator

APR 7 1969

Subject: Current Developments

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

November marks the beginning of my third year as head of our Service. Just before taking off today for the Alabama Association of Soil Conservation Districts meeting, I'll tell you the latest!

Seventeen of the eighteen members of the newly appointed Soil and Water Conservation Advisory Committee of the Department participated in the lively first meeting of the group here October 27 and 28. It was my privilege to speak to the committee, and to participate in all the discussions. Assistant Secretary Ervin L. Peterson presided. Representatives of the Forest Service, Federal Extension Service, Agricultural Conservation Program Service, Agricultural Research Service and the Farmers Home Administration took part in the discussions and provided background information on the conservation phases of their programs.

The committee, Secretary Peterson pointed out, will serve on a continuing basis, and will meet on call. The chairman will shortly designate terms of the present members, six each for 1-, 2-, and 3-year terms so that geographic representation on the committee--6 each from the West, Central States, and the East--will be maintained.

Although the first meeting was primarily to get acquainted and for orientation, the committee offered a number of suggestions. Two of the recommendations were (1) that the Department seek an amendment to the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act that would provide for federal participation in the cost of structures that store water for purposes other than flood prevention, and (2) that the Department re-evaluate the place for nurseries in the soil and water conservation program.

The two-day session was very pleasing to me. Many fine things were said about the work of the Service. Committee members are well informed. They are eager to contribute to the betterment of our national soil and water conservation program. I am certain that in the months and years to come we shall profit greatly through the activities of this group.

Only member who was unable to attend the first session was Earl T. Bower of Worland, Wyo., an officer of the Wyoming Water Resource Board. His name was inadvertently dropped from the last Current Developments.

Other developments:

1. Richard L. Von Trebra, former chief of operations in the old Milwaukee regional office, will succeed retiring J. W. Sargent as Puerto Rico Territorial

Conservationist. Von recently completed a 2-year International Cooperation Administration assignment at Karachi, Pakistan.

2. Some states have developed a Forms Management Program and have issued such a memorandum in the state numbered series. In each such instance, I'm informed, the design and general quality of forms have improved immediately.

3. The Columbia Co. SCD, with headquarters at Hudson, N. Y., uses the "Our Soil--Our Strength" trademark as part of its letterhead. The Rensselaer Co. SCD of New York used it on the cover of its excellent "Five Years on the Land" leaflet.

4. Ohio's last legislature amended the State district law to increase the State Soil Conservation Committee from five to seven members. The committee is now composed of four farmer and three ex officio members. Ex officio members of the committee are the dean of the College of Agriculture, the director of the State Department of Agriculture, and the director of the Department of Natural Resources.

5. The Board of Directors of North Dakota Association of SCDs and individual districts contributed sufficient funds to buy 20,000 copies of "The Story of Land." Copies are being distributed to all 6th and 7th grade school children in the state. City and County Superintendents of schools are making the distribution in cooperation with the State Department of Public Instruction.

6. Dr. Cecil H. Wadleigh has been selected to fill the vacancy in ARS caused by the death of Dr. Salter. The new chief of the Soil and Water Conservation Research Branch has been head of the Soil and Plant Relationships Section since May 1954. He was head of the Division of Sugar Plant Investigations from August 1951 to May 1954. From 1941 to 1951, Cecil was on the staff of the Salinity Laboratory at Riverside, Calif., where he did some of the classic research on salt tolerance of plants and water-bio-chemical relationships of plants. He is familiar with the soil and water conservation problems and is active in the Soil Conservation Society of America. We are looking forward to the same happy working relationship with Dr. Wadleigh that the Service enjoyed with Dr. Salter.

7. Two staff members of the Senate Appropriation Committee--Robert Lerchen and Ray Schaefer--and Joe Wheeler of the Department's Budget and Finance office this week are completing an inspection of Service activities in Oklahoma, Texas and Colorado.

8. Adrian Fox, who was in charge of educational relations in the old Lincoln office, has now become head of educational relations in the Washington information division. Since the reorganization, Adrian has been deputy state conservationist in North Dakota. We have brought Adrian in to head up our expanded program of work with educational institutions and organizations, youth groups, and civic bodies.

9. Additional personnel changes: Harold Baker of the Texas State staff has been named Texas State Administrative Officer, succeeding Elliott Roberts, who was transferred to the AMS in California....Orie Fuller of the West Virginia State office has been named Maryland State Administrative Officer....Claude A.

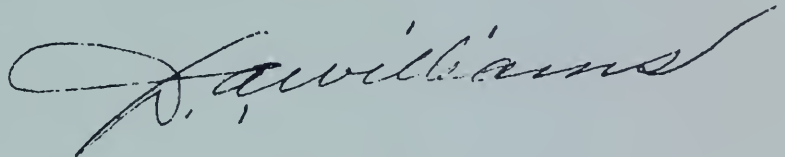
"Buck" Watson of the California State staff has been named California State administrative officer, succeeding the late Walter Sykes....Wallace Smith has been promoted from assistant to deputy state conservationist in Kentucky and Herschel Hecker, formerly state soil conservationist, named assistant state conservationist in charge of watershed activities there.

10. Was sorry to learn of the death of E. H. "Stub" Hatten on the state administrative staff in Idaho. "Stub" was a long-time Service employee and was head of the Records and Reports Division of the Portland office during my days there. ...I've gotten the good news that Oscar Bruce, Missouri State Conservationist, is recovering from his illness.

11. It was grand last week to spend two days with State Conservationist Garrett of North Carolina and his personnel. This first get-together of SCS personnel in several years should do much to help keep up to date and generates enthusiasm for the big job ahead. It was swell to meet so many of our folks.

12. It was my special privilege to appear with Assistant Secretary Peterson on the program of the National Association of Directors, Secretaries, and Commissioners of Agriculture at New Orleans last week. Fifty percent of those officials are on State soil conservation committees, boards, or commissions and, of course, are much interested in conservation.

Also, at New Orleans I spent a few hours with Joe Martin and his Louisiana area conservationists and specialists. And, by the way, our WUC at New Orleans, Stafford Thibodeaux, really knows that city and public relations! Thanks, again, Thiby!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Williams". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

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Administratively Confidential

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.

March 23, 1956

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

To: All SCS Field Offices

From: D. A. Williams, Administrator

APR 7 1969

Subject: Current Developments

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

The farm bill passed Tuesday by the Senate contains provisions for a Conservation Reserve Program. Section 219 of the bill states: "With respect to conservation aspects of any program under this Act, the Secretary shall consult with the soil conservation districts, State forests, land-grant colleges, and other appropriate agencies of State Governments in the formulation of program provisions at the State and county levels. The technical resources of the Soil Conservation Service, the Forest Service, the land-grant colleges, the State foresters, and other appropriate technical services shall be utilized, so far as practicable, to assure coordination of conservation activities and a solid technical foundation for the program."

Section 220, entitled "Utilization of Land Use Capability Data," states: "In administering this title the Secretary shall utilize to the fullest practicable extent land use capability data, and shall carry forward to completion as rapidly as possible the basic land inventory of the Nation."

Section 211 provides "The Secretary may purchase or produce conservation materials and services and make such materials and services available to producers under the conservation reserve program to aid them in establishing vegetative cover or water storage facilities, or other soil, water, wildlife or forest conserving uses, under contracts authorized by this subtitle (Conservation Reserve Program), may reimburse any Federal, State or local government agency for conservation materials and services furnished by such agency, and may pay expenses necessary in making such materials and services available, including all or part of the costs incident to the delivery, application or installation of materials and services."

A series of meetings reviewing tentative policies and procedures is now in progress. Our State offices, State ASC Committees, and others are attending. It is hoped that there will be a minimum of delay in putting Soil Bank in operation if it becomes law. We will have a technical part in it, no doubt.

House action on the bill is scheduled to come after Easter.

Other developments:

1. Administrator Ferguson and I attended the joint meeting of the SCS and Extension staffs at Pennsylvania State University last week. The meeting,

All Washington and Field Offices

an annual affair, was a good one. Was pleased to learn that seven new soil conservation districts have been formed in Pennsylvania since January 1 this year.

2. Spent Tuesday of this week with the officers and directors of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts. Nolen Fuqua and his crew had a busy week. Meetings with officials of other Department agencies, the Interior Department and the Army Engineers were on the schedule.

3. Thirteen watershed work plans under Public Law 566 have been completed and, after the legally-prescribed 60-day review period by other federal agencies and the Governors of the States involved, have been sent by the Department to the Bureau of the Budget. The next step is to the Congress. Two other work plans have been sent by SCS to the Secretary's office, from which they will be sent to the Budget Bureau. Ten additional watershed work plans -- making a total of 25 completed by the local sponsors with SCS technical help -- are in the 60-day review stage. I've just authorized planning assistance in eight more watersheds. This brings planning authorizations to 150, in 43 States. The Department has received 466 State-approved applications, from 45 States.

4. We are pleased that Assistant Administrator Van Dersal is one of the 16 career workers in Federal Government to receive the coveted Rockefeller Outstanding Public Service Award this year. Van plans to begin his year's study in the fall. Governmental management of renewable resources in the United States and abroad will be his field. His plans call for field work in Canada, Australia and New Zealand, as well as this country. He will study activities of state agencies in the renewable resource field as well as the policies and programs of the federal agencies. The individual grants, which pay salaries and expenses, are for the purpose of providing incentives for the continuance and advancement of civilians in Federal Government.

5. We've gotten the good news that Roy Hockensmith, who's been mending from his heart attack of a couple months ago, soon may be able to return to his job on a part-time basis. We've certainly missed him.

6. Our Management Improvement and Awards Committee received 85 recommendations for Outstanding Ratings for 1955. The committee also has acted on 31 nominations for the Department's Superior Service Awards and 1 for Distinguished Service.

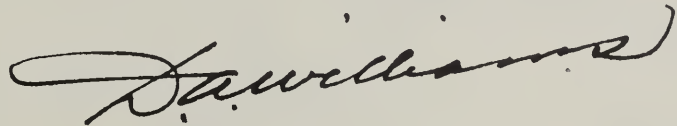
7. We assisted 57 percent more farmers and ranchers cooperating with districts work out their basic soil conservation plans in 1955 than we did in 1954. A total of 89,839 cooperators finished working out their basic plans during the last calendar year. Of the 20 major conservation practices, seven showed gains in 1955 over a year earlier.

8. We are sending out right away a request to state and territorial conservationists for the summarized figures on the work load analyses made in the work units. As you probably know, these form the basis for our request to

the Department for funds for the next fiscal year. I sincerely hope that all work load analyses were carefully and objectively done -- a great deal depends on them.

9. Our appropriation hearings before the House Sub-Committee were again postponed to April 19. Delay in final action on the Farm Bill is the apparent reason.

10. On March 22 the Rules Committee of the House of Representatives reported out for floor action the Poage Bill HR 8750 to amend P.L. 566 the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Williams", is centered on the page. The signature is written in dark ink and has a fluid, somewhat stylized appearance.

P. S. Our Washington and Beltsville employees acted quickly and generously in the Red Cross campaign. We were the first sizable agency in the Department to reach its quota. Our donations totaled 109 percent of our goal; 97 percent of our employees donated.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
Washington 25, D. C.

June 29, 1956

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

To: All SCS Field Offices

From: D. A. Williams, Administrator

APR 7 1969

Subject: Current Developments

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

A year ago I said a word or two about planning our leave because we can profit by rest and relaxation. I am now heeding that good advice by taking almost the next two weeks off.

My main aim is to keep out of telephone reach as much as possible. Needless to say, my wife's got a few things for me to do at home before we take to the road.

We plan to visit my brother at Augusta, Ga., take in the NASCD meeting at Atlanta, and then spend a few days in or near the Smoky Mountains.

Other developments:

1. The full House Agriculture Committee held a hearing yesterday on the Great Plains program. Assistant Secretary Peterson, Deputy ACPS Administrator Fred Ritchie and I testified. At the friendly hearing, Peterson stressed the basic importance of the leadership of soil conservation districts, and of the conservation farm plan based on land capabilities as a foundation for a long range program in the wind erosion area.
2. Assistant Secretary Peterson and I will attend the meeting of the Great Plains Council at Fort Collins, July 23, and spend the next several days at field locations in Colorado and Nebraska.
3. The House Subcommittee on Agricultural Appropriations plans to attend the Third Annual Watershed Congress at Lincoln, Nebr., in September. After the Congress, the subcommittee members will visit Nebraska, Iowa, and Minnesota.
4. We have completed setting up a River Basins Branch in the Planning Division with George R. Phillips in charge. This unit will give leadership on such broad interstate surveys as the Lower Mississippi, Upper Colorado, and Delaware River.
5. The Senate Public Works Committee has scheduled a hearing July 3 on the House-passed Poage bill which would amend Public Law 566.

All Washington and Field Offices

6. Noted in the multilithed newsletter of the Wells County, North Dakota, SCD that 99 cooperating farmers set out 150,772 trees last spring for shelterbelts, windbreaks, and wildlife plantings.

7. I had the pleasure of seeing a complete farm conservation plan in operation last week on the 4,500 acre State Prison farm near Goochland, Va. Our technicians had worked out the plan with Manager Meyer Royster several years ago and have assisted him since. After I had seen the apparent benefits I wondered why we don't have a more ready answer for those who question the need for or the worth of a complete farm conservation plan. My hat's off to our Virginia SCS technicians who helped with such a job.

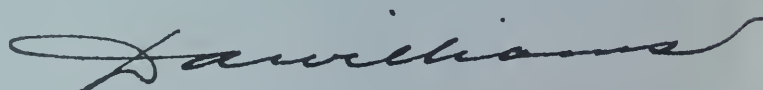
8. The four Cass County, North Dakota, Soil Conservation Districts have gone together and issued a 28-page printed "10 Year Progress Report." Seventy-two merchants in the county defrayed the cost of the illustrated publication.

9. The "40 year" USDA awards that recently went to four SCS people raised the question of who are the five SCS employees with the longest terms of service. In other words, the first five employees of the old Soil Erosion Service who are still with the Soil Conservation Service. Lee Geiger, who compiled "A Chronological History of the Soil Conservation Service and Related Events," offers the following:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Entrance on Duty</u>	<u>Present Location</u>
Kenneth P. Blair	Albuquerque, New Mexico November 7, 1933	Albuquerque, N. Mex.
Courtland B. Manifold	Washington, D. C. (For Knoxville, Tenn.) November 9, 1933	Harrisburg, Pa.
Thomas S. Buie	Spartanburg, South Carolina November 15, 1933	Columbia, S. C.
Gerald E. Ryerson	La Crosse, Wisconsin November 16, 1933	Washington, D. C.
Clyde E. Deardoff	Pullman, Washington November 22, 1933	Portland, Oreg.

If anyone has any earlier candidate or candidates to present, we will acknowledge them in a subsequent issue.

10. Have a big but good Fourth of July!



(NBC Farm & Home Hour Saturday, July 7, will feature farm pond values in fire control. Two cooperators with Maine SCD's help tell the story.)

P.S. Enclosed for your use is a copy of the pictorial chart of the Washington staff. Also enclosed is a copy of the writeup of the 1956 Honor Awards.

Enc.

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To SCS Field Offices - Louisiana

UNITED STATES
U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

APR 7 1969

Alexandria, Louisiana
July 5, 1956

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Educational Leave. Alton Mangum, Work Unit Conservationist at DeRidder, has returned to us this month from a one-year fellowship at Harvard University. He completed his Master's degree in Public Administration. Until about September 1, he will serve on detail at the State office assisting in the Watershed Planning Program. Until then, Edward D. Holcombe will continue to serve as Work Unit Conservationist at DeRidder.

James DeMent, Soil Scientist at Shreveport, has bowed out to begin a period of graduate study at Cornell University in Agronomy. His tour there will be a combination teaching and study fellowship.

Student Trainees. The latest list of student trainees serving this summer is:

Harold L. Thurman, Soil Conservationist, Coushatta; John H. Johnson, Agricultural Engineer, Clinton; James D. McElveen, Soil Conservationist, Franklinton; Leon C. Simar, Soil Conservationist, Benton; George W. Piontek, Agricultural Engineer, Winnsboro; Fredrick L. Hoogland, Agricultural Engineer, Abbeville; Leonard H. Martin, Soil Conservationist, West Monroe; L. Vic Henderson, Soil Conservationist, Minden; Clyde T. Gardner, Geologist, Alexandria; Robert Reno, Civil Engineer, West Monroe; John Compton, Jr., Soil Conservationist, Natchitoches.

Clerical Personnel. Mrs. Verna B. Milstead, Clerk-Stenographer for the Program Staff, has been converted to Career-Conditional appointment. She had served under a temporary appointment pending resignation of Mrs. Dolores Taylor.

Mrs. Dorothy T. Rice, Area Clerk, Alexandria, requested a re-assignment which converts her to a WAE basis. This action was made effective on June 17, 1956.

The new clerk for the Watershed Planning Party is Mrs. Sarah F. Nichols. She began duty on June 4 under a Career-Conditional appointment, replacing a temporary appointee.

New Soil Scientists. Stanley D. Matthews, Student-Trainee, advanced to Soil Scientist, GS-5 upon graduation from Louisiana Tech and was assigned to duty at Crowley.

Thomas N. Mills, also a Tech graduate, received his initial Career-Conditional appointment June 11, 1956, as a Soil Scientist, GS-5, assigned to duty at Shreveport.

Transfers. Effective June 3, 1956, Clarence F. Chancey of Lake Providence accepted a re-assignment to the Mississippi River Tributary Project Studies; Headquarters at Winnsboro. He has been serving on an extended detail, working with Herschel W. Eilerts performing this special work requested by the U. S. Corp of Engineers.

Huey K. Mixon, Engineering Aid, GS-5, at New Orleans, is moving up the river to St. Joseph effective July 7, 1956.

Floyd Hutto transferred to the Watershed Planning Party in Alexandria from his assignment as Engineering Aid, Leesville Work Unit. He was replaced at Leesville by Caleb B. McKinney, a District Aid at Benton, selected from the Civil Service register for Career-Conditional appointment.

Promotions. Congratulations go to Franklin V. Boyd, Jr., promoted to GS-5 Clerk, June 17, 1956, a new position involving increased responsibility in the fields of Records Management and Records and Reports.

State ASC Conference. Five Work Unit Conservationists, one representing each of the five areas, attended the State ASC Conference in New Orleans on June 5 through June 7. They were: Pervis A. Wiggins, Hahnville; Joel B. Slack, Benton; Rollie H. Spinks, Vidalia; Marshall J. Hough, Winnfield; Chester F. Bellard, Crowley. The five Area Conservationists also attended the meeting, along with the State Conservationist and Wayne Fallin.

Personnel Classification Consultant. Robert E. Williams, Range Specialist, Lake Charles, was one of a team of three men selected by the Administrator to serve in Washington on a special detail, May 28 through June 8. We have just received a letter from the Administrator, commending Williams for the fine work as a technical consultant on the revision of the Class Specifications covering range conservationists' positions.

Do We Feel Small? We have just learned that Texas led the Service in cash awards for the nine month period ending March 31. The Big State gave out 24 as compared with our 2. Others are in the mill, but we are anxious to dig into the till again and pay for some good ideas.

The 1,000-Hour Club. As of July 1, forty-three of the 221 leave-earning employees of SCS in Louisiana have passed the 1,000-hour accumulation of sick leave.

Districts' Annual Reports. Fifteen of Louisiana's twenty-six soil conservation districts have submitted their 1955 annual reports. Five of these have been printed in booklet form, or published in newspapers.

Records & Reports Committee Named. In keeping with our plan for rotating assignments on various committees, the following Work Unit Conservationists have been appointed to serve on our Records and Reports Committee: J. L. Penuell, Homer; Jimmie Durr, Winnsboro; Marshall Hough, Winnfield; A. J. DaGian, Opelousas; A. R. Cain, Clinton.

Bayou Dupont Work Plan in Congress. The Bayou Dupont Watershed Work Plan was submitted to Congress by the Bureau of the Budget on June 8. By law it must remain in Congress 45 days while Congress is in session before construction can begin. Unless the plan is disapproved, it will automatically be approved July 24 unless Congress adjourns before that date. Plans are already under way to begin construction as soon as possible if approval is received.

SCD News Letters. Two districts in Louisiana, the Calcasieu and Gulf Coast, are now issuing news letters to district cooperators. Illustrated with photographs and filled with the doings of district cooperators, they make very interesting reading.

WWL & KWKH Air Conservation News. Two Farm Radio Program Directors are doing yeoman service to conservation on their daily farm news reports. "Tibby" Thibodeaux, WUC at New Orleans, appears every Tuesday morning at 6:30 on WWL with George Shannon to talk about some phase of SCS and district activities. Jack Timmons, KWKH, is on every day at noon usually with something to say about SCS and districts. Both these stations welcome 'spot' news direct from work units.

Louisiana SCD Law Amended. A bill to amend the Louisiana Soil Conservation District Law was approved unanimously in the House and Senate, and has been signed by the Governor. Major changes in the law: (1) Sets up a seven-man State Soil Conservation Committee composed of five district supervisors, the Dean of the College of Agriculture, Commissioner of the State Department of Agriculture and Immigration; (2) Gives districts unquestioned authority to construct, operate, and maintain works of improvement under Public Law 566; (3) Sets the same date annually for all districts to elect new members of district boards.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H. E. Martin', with a stylized, cursive script.

H. E. Martin, State Conservationist

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
Washington 25, D. C.

August 24, 1956

To: All SCS Field Offices
From: D. A. Williams, Administrator
Subject: Current Developments

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APR 7 1969

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Summer is rapidly fleeting. It's been an unusually cool one for which I am mighty happy because of having to stay close to home base much of the time.

You will be interested to know that fifty-five counties in 24 states were designated this week as "pilot counties" under the Department's Rural Development program. We have just allotted the special funds to the 24 state offices to begin carrying out the portion of the program for which we have responsibility. We are adding the equivalent of 1-1/2 technician per county to intensify our activities with part time and low income farmers. The Rural Development Program represents the cooperative efforts of the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, Health, Education and Welfare. The program involves working with local people on the problems related to the economic situation of such areas. The 24 states which now have pilot counties under the program are: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Other Developments:

1. Secretary Benson this week announced the Conservation Reserve Program under the Soil Bank Act. Instructions to field offices of the ASC committees are now being prepared in Washington. Our Memo 109 outlines the Service's responsibilities under the Conservation Reserve Program.
2. President Eisenhower has signed the bill authorizing the payment of expenses of the Department's Soil and Water Conservation Advisory Committee. The Secretary has called a meeting of the committee here October 8 and 9.
3. I counseled this week with our Washington and Field Information Unit people as they planned the 1957 information phase of our work. We gave attention to our expanding information job in connection with the additional responsibilities that have accompanied the new phases of our program. In this connection, I'm glad to report that Herb Boddy is returning to the Service, assigned to the Berkeley field information unit to give particular attention to watershed protection and flood prevention information. Herb, formerly in the Portland Regional office, has been in REA information work since the reorganization.

All Washington and Field Offices

4. We have given State Conservationists the "go ahead" on the 26 P.L. 566 projects that were authorized prior to adjournment of Congress. Under the amended act, six additional projects may soon be authorized for operations.

5. The Austin, Texas, City Planning Commission requested and has received technical assistance from SCS in projecting a long time expansion program for the city. Soil descriptions were furnished showing water percolation rates and suitability or unsuitability of land for agriculture. City planners are interested in pointing city growth away from good arable land.

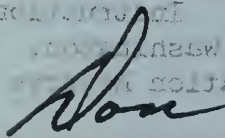
6. A builder in the Philadelphia area has reported to SCS that it was to his financial advantage to utilize contours he found on the farm in designing and laying out a suburban development in Camden County, New Jersey. The contours were part of the strip cropping system which the former owner obtained as a cooperator with the Camden County Soil Conservation District. The builder advised that he laid out lots, streets and the storm sewage system on the contour making a pleasing effect as well as saving time and money.

Areas that have been denuded of all vegetation in their preparation as sites for houses have been contributing tremendous silt loads during intense showers this summer.

7. Wilson C. White, GS-7, Soil Conservationist from Pickens, South Carolina, has been selected as one of 24 federal employees throughout government to participate in the 8th Junior Administrative Intern program of the Civil Service Commission. He will be in Washington for the period September 10 through January 25. We are proud to have another one of our employees in this program.

8. I am pleased to announce the appointment of Robert E. Williams as Washington-Field Range Conservationist for the Southeastern States. Since his graduation in range management from the University of Idaho, Bob has had 16 years of experience with the Service in Texas and Louisiana where he has been a technician, area conservationist, and has become one of the country's authorities on marsh ranges.

9. My first field trip in quite a spell will be to Price, Utah, to attend the Southwest Area meeting of the NASCD the 31st. I have several trips scheduled in the next 2 months.



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Soil Conservation Service
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APR 7 1969

March 8, 1957

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

To: All SCS Field Offices
From: D. A. Williams, Administrator
Subject: Current Developments

We had five busy days at San Antonio last week, attending the sessions of Ed Graham's plant technology folks and meeting with the Policy Committee of State Conservationists.

Among the Policy Committee's recommendations that I have under consideration as a result of the meeting are:

1. There is a recognized need for development of national standards covering definitions, objectives, and broad conditions under which conservation practices should be applied.
2. A handbook on principles of farm and ranch planning be prepared.
3. That the training positions for business activities of state offices and technical specialists in watershed activities be continued and strengthened.

This was the first time I'd had opportunity to spend considerable time with the interstate leaders of the plant technology part of our national program. One of the problems considered was how to achieve the best possible working arrangement with state program staffs and their technical specialists. The State Conservationists helped suggest procedures which will provide greater opportunities for technical leadership.

Other Developments:

1. In my next letter I hope to clarify our responsibilities in connection with forestry activities of the Department. On December 28, Assistant Secretary Peterson sent to Chief McArdle of the Forest Service and me a memorandum. Since some questions of interpretation have been raised, Mr. Peterson is working on an additional memo to us. Then McArdle and I plan to issue a joint memo to SCS and Forest Service people. Mr. Peterson's memo of December 28 embodied the following principles:

All SCS Washington and Field Offices

1. The U. S. Forest Service is the forestry agency of the Department of Agriculture. It will carry out its function on privately owned lands through State forestry agencies and will not provide direct on-farm forestry services.
 2. The SCS is recognized as the technical agency for soil and water conservation and flood prevention. It will continue to include the woodland areas of farms in conservation plans and will provide to farmers and ranchers such forestry services as are not readily available from the State agencies.
 3. It is my understanding that tree plantings for agricultural purposes as defined in the memorandum are distinguished from forestry purposes and within USDA the technical responsibility is assigned exclusively to SCS. This is intended to apply to any and all programs involving such plantings. In the absence of readily available assistance from State forestry agencies the SCS will provide the needed technical services.
 4. It is the Secretary's policy to avoid duplicating the forestry services available from State forestry agencies.
 5. The SCS will continue to use woodland specialists in its activities but will make full use of research findings and recommendations of forestry agencies.
 6. Any cooperative memoranda of understanding developed by the Forest Service, State forestry agency, and SCS must be approved by the Secretary.
2. Several of us have been attending some of the 22nd North American Wildlife Conference here this week. The Washington-Field biologists are meeting with Larry Compton in addition to attending some of the sessions. Verne Davison of Auburn presented a well received paper by himself and Karl E. Graetz of Raleigh on "Managing Habitat for White-Tailed Deer and Wild Turkeys."

Some of the Conference speakers were critical of Department policies relating to drainage activities in the pothole areas of the Dakotas and Minnesota. In this connection Paul Koger, ACPS Administrator, and I have issued some additional "guidelines" in carrying out Department policies in the pothole country.

Where proposed drainage is clearly eligible within the policies of SCS and ACPS, the guidelines provide for the following procedure:

- a. If the farmer's decision to drain the area is not altered (by recommendations of SCS not to drain), and if the pothole is a permanent one and of apparent significant wildlife value, inform the farmer (and Soil Conservation District if he is a cooperator) that the SCS cannot give him further drainage assistance until the State fish and game agency has had a reasonable opportunity to inspect the area, make a determination of its wildlife value, and if found valuable for wildlife, make him an alternative proposal for maintaining and improving the area for wildlife.

b. Furnish the desired drainage assistance if the proposed drainage is within the SCS and ACPS policy and if within a reasonable time, the State fish and game agency, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or other interested public or private agency does not make the cooperator an acceptable offer. (The waiting period will be 20 days during the months April-November, or until May 1 for notifications submitted during December-March inclusive.)

3. Monday I'll be with the east of the Mississippi State Administrative Officers at Cincinnati; Tuesday at the Soil Survey Work Shop and Planning Conference at St. Louis; and Wednesday at the Columbia Basin Inter-Agency Committee at Spokane. Guess it's pretty obvious I'll be flying!

4. The printed 1957 Resolutions and Platform of the American Association of School Administrators contains the following: "As citizens of the United States of America we believe.... 7. That the strength of the nation will depend upon the conservation and intelligent development of our human and natural resources." The resource plank has been in the platform since 1951.

5. J. G. Bamesberger has been promoted to deputy to Director Chet Francis of our Engineering Division. Mel Culp is now chief of our Design and Construction Branch.

6. All of us have extended our sympathy to Verna Mohagen whose sister, Miss Edna Mohagen, died here recently. Edna was a scientist in the Agricultural Research Service, working in the Animal Disease Eradication Division. Burial was at Grafton, N. Dak.

7. Adrian Fox, who heads our Educational Relations, and I are serving on the National Advisory Committee of the 1957 National Land, Pasture and Range Judging School and Contest at Oklahoma City May 2 and 3. You may obtain brochure of this year's event from Edd Roberts, Extension Soil Conservationist, Stillwater, Okla.

8. The Mississippi Game and Fish Commission and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission are the first State conservation departments to issue printed information on wildlife conservation practices eligible for cost-sharing and the Soil Bank's Conservation Reserve. "Wildlife in North Carolina" and "Mississippi Game and Fish" are the State magazines carrying the programs.

9. First Soil Conservation Fair to come to my attention is the one held February 28 at Ponca City, Okla. Newspapers reported 1,500 attended. Featured were exhibits, posters and demonstrations by Kay County's school children and county organizations, L. L. (Red) Males, Cheyenne, Okla., banker conservationist, and a chuck wagon feed by the Ponca Chamber of Commerce.

10. Thomas P. Helseth, Idaho deputy state conservationist, today was named Oregon state conservationist to succeed Harold Tower, now field representative for the western states.

11. Jack Wetzel of our Watershed Planning Branch currently is in Hazaribagh, India, where he is delivering a series of lectures on watershed management at

a Watershed Development Center. Twenty-four top technicians from 13 Eastern and Asiatic countries are attending. In a note he reported, "One of the most gratifying things I have run into is the high regard every one of the participants has for the U. S. Soil Conservation Service." Jack has visited with Wilson Hull, formerly of our Service at Spartanburg, now assigned at Hazaribagh, and plans to visit Al Hedge.

12. My minister has again scheduled a Soil Stewardship sermon in observance of the opening of 1957 Soil Stewardship Week. He has had me get him soil stewardship reference materials, programs and posters for the occasion. He is also getting some material from our Church's national headquarters. I fully expect all of you will help in some way to make that week a success. The materials available from NASCD are very attractive and informative.



Official Business

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
Washington 25, D. C.

April 3, 1957
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To: All SCS Field Offices

From: D. A. Williams, Administrator

Subject: Current Developments

APR 7 1969

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Spring weather, cherry blossoms, and tourists prevail in Washington this week. And a young (?) man's fancy turns to.....

Here to help us for a short time are three assistant state conservationists from Wyoming, Nebraska, and Texas. They are working with Cy Luker on Great Plains Conservation Program policies, regulations, procedures, etc. The basic policies will probably be signed by the Assistant Secretary this week and draft regulations should be completed in a couple weeks. By the time that we know about the availability of appropriations for this program it should be ready for launching.

Other Developments:

1. New State Conservationists: Herschell D. Hurd for Montana and Benjamin Isgur for Massachusetts. Hurd, deputy state conservationist, will succeed Truman C. Anderson, who retires May 1. A 1929 graduate of Montana State College, he has been with the Service since 1937. Isgur, deputy state conservationist, succeeds Dr. Arthur B. Beaumont, who retired recently. Dr. Isgur, a graduate of Massachusetts State College, has been a Service employee since 1938.
2. Let's give farmers all the help possible during the last few days of the signup for the 1957 Conservation Reserve of the Soil Bank. Deadline for signing Conservation Reserve contracts to begin this year is April 15. Between October 1956 and March 15 farmers had placed more than 4.7 million acres in the Soil Bank's Conservation Reserve.
3. We have received word that the Nebraska Farmer magazine plans to use eight of the picture stories entered in that state's photo series contest by SCS field people. The magazine's editor was one of the contest judges.
4. We're mighty happy to have H. N. (Red) Smith, Texas State Conservationist, here to help us out for a spell as acting assistant administrator for management while Van Dersal is on leave. And we've been so pleased with the help of Hollis Williams, Arkansas State Conservationist, who has been acting, that we've asked him to stay till after our budget hearings with the House Appropriation Committee on April 12. Van, by the way, is now on a trip to Australia and New Zealand, as part of his international study of administration of conservation programs under the Rockefeller grant.

All SCS Washington and Field Offices

5. Georgia SCD's led in tree planting last year. District cooperators in that state planted 89,353 acres to trees in 1956.
6. Three additional watershed projects have been approved for installation of works of improvement. They are the Little Youghiogheny in Maryland, which required congressional action, and Lacamas Creek in Washington and Silver Creek in South Dakota, which did not. The estimated costs of the 35 projects now approved for operations is \$36,844,039, of which \$17,477,386 is nonfederal.
7. "Our Farmlands Are Shrinking" is the title of a May Coronet article by me, "as told to Peter Farb," that will be issued April 16.
8. CONSERVATION IRRIGATION IN HUMID AREAS, Agriculture Handbook No. 107, off the press recently, is attracting much favorable comment and fills a long-felt need for the eastern half of the country. Authors are T. H. Quackenbush, G. M. Renfro, K. H. Beauchamp, L. F. Lawhon and G. W. Eley, Service irrigation engineers. Single notification copies have gone to all field offices.
9. Fortune Magazine's April issue carries "A Strategy for Drought," an excellent article on the wind erosion area.
10. Strictly new--On March 11 twenty five supervisors from 13 soil conservation districts in northwestern Ohio flew in a chartered plane to Washington. In advance they said they had no "ax to grind"; they just wanted to see what makes Washington "tick." They had a short visit with each of the following in the Department: Secretary Benson; Clarence Ferguson of Extension; Clay Stackhouse and H. Larry Manwaring, CSS; Gladwin Young, and others, in my absence; their Congressmen and Senators.

Darnell Whitt, Cecil Wadleigh, and T. W. Edminster of ARS had a visit with them, too, on soil problems of northwestern Ohio.
11. The March 24 Sunday St. Louis Post-Dispatch had a two-page Rotogravure Section Photo Story on Oklahoma's Sandstone Creek Watershed. The front page, entirely taken up by the Watershed feature, carries five color photographs.
12. Sam Bondurant is another state conservationist to leave our ranks of state conservationists in recent months for retirement from fine careers in the service of the federal government. They had a swell party for him recently at Richmond. I understand Sam is now planning to help the state soil conservation committee as a field representative.
13. Boy Scouts of America have made SAVE OUR SOIL the theme of its conservation project for 1958. The Service has been asked to help prepare a kit of materials on soil and water conservation this summer. The kit eventually will go to some 55,000 scoutmasters to help them direct local scout conservation activities. Any ideas you have will be more than welcome. This year's project, incidentally, is WILDLIFE CONSERVATION which also involves a lot of soil and water conservation angles as many of you know from your work with local Boy Scout groups.

14. The three Lower Rio Grande Valley Soil Conservation Districts have purchased 50 acres which they have turned over to the ARS to be used exclusively for soil, water, irrigation, and drainage research. All research will be conducted on field scale basis growing the major economic crops of the Valley.

15. Statistics for the calendar 1956 showed a slight increase in the frequency of both disabling injuries and automobile accidents. While the increase is not serious - it's a trend in the wrong direction.

This year the National Safety Council is sponsoring a "Back the Attack" program against automotive accidents. Most of the automobile accidents we have are preventable - if we drive defensively. Let's concentrate on understanding and practicing defensive driving, or as someone has aptly put it, "Drive as though the other driver is nuts." And, speaking from personal experience, that's so!

Progress report: Pruning, liming, and weed spraying completed in the back yard. Now come fertilizer and the lawnmower!

Forests and trees? Next time.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Don", located at the bottom right of the page.

USDA HONOR AWARDS

To employees of
Soil Conservation Service



JUNE 5, 1956

U. S. Department of Agriculture--Soil Conservation Service

In recognition of distinguished and superior service to American agriculture, Soil Conservation Service employees received six individual awards from the U. S. Department of Agriculture. These awards were presented June 5 at ceremonies on the Washington Monument Grounds of our Nation's Capital.

Service employees received five unit honor awards that will be presented at local ceremonies in the near future.

Distinguished Service Award: Dr. Lyle T. Alexander, Chief of the Soil Survey Laboratories, Beltsville, Md.

Superior Service Award: Clifton L. Etter, Area Conservationist, Lamar, Colo.; Foster M. Patton, Work Unit Conservationist, Cullman, Ala.; John A. Smart, Area Conservationist, Charlottesville, Va.; Robert A. Work, Head, Water Supply Forecasting Section, Portland, Oreg.; Eugene J. Peterson, Chief, Training and Safety Branch, Washington, D. C.

Unit Award for Superior Service: Lonoke Work Unit, Lonoke, Ark.; Beaver City Work Unit, Beaver City, Nebr.; Malad Work Unit, Malad, Idaho; Lovell Work Unit, Lovell, Wyo.; Operations Analysis and Records Section, Washington, D. C.

Individual award winners received a trip to Washington, D. C., a certificate of citation, and a handsome medal. Unit award winners will receive a brass plate engraved with name of the unit and the citation, attached to a bronze plaque with a silver medal recessed.



Lyle T. Alexander

Dr. Alexander was honored for "successfully using soil science and related sciences to advance human understanding of soil formation, behavior, and use, and of the effects of radioactive materials on soils and plants."

Dr. Alexander is a world leader in soil science. In addition, he has become an outstanding expert on the effects of radioactive fallout from nuclear explosions. This phase of his work has required many overseas study missions and field researches.

He has been in soils work in the Department since 1928 when he became a junior soil physicist in the old Bureau of Chemistry and Soils following graduation from the University of Arkansas. He received a Ph. D. from the University of Maryland in 1935. Dr. Alexander was born at Athens, Tex. He is author of more than 43 technical publications. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and a member of the American Chemical Society, Soil Science Society of America, International Society of Soil Science, and Sigma Xi.



Clifton L. Etter

The award to Mr. Etter is for "extraordinary skill in the solution of sand dune and other severe wind-erosion problems of the Great Plains."

Few men in the Service have contributed more to soil conservation in the southern Great Plains than Cliff Etter. He joined the old Soil Erosion Service in 1935 at Dalhart, Tex., as a trainee. He quickly became an outstanding trouble shooter.

Mr. Etter received his first recognition as a sand-dune-control expert when he was detailed to the Corps of Engineers in 1939 during construction of the John Martin Dam across the Arkansas River near Lamar, Colo. He solved a sand-dune-stabilization problem that permitted relocation of more than 20 miles of Santa Fe Railroad track at an estimated saving of \$1.5 million.

Mr. Etter has worked with farmers and ranchers and agricultural leaders in Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado in the development of sound plans for soil stabilization. He is an outstanding authority on the program needs of the southern High Plains to make it a stable agricultural area. In his part of the country, remedial measures proposed for the Great Plains are called the "Etter Plan."

He has been area conservationist at Lamar since 1952. He was born at Davidson, Okla., and grew up in the panhandle of that State. He graduated from Panhandle Agricultural and Mechanical College in 1934.

Mr. Patton won an award for "unusually effective leadership and training of personnel, which resulted in outstanding work performance."

Between July 1, 1946, and June 30, 1955, Mr. Patton attained high-quality production while doing an effective personnel training job.

During the 9-year period, personnel of the work unit averaged 145 farm conservation plans per year. They helped farmers prepare 1,285 plans covering 99,046 acres in a unit where farms are small and agriculture is highly diversified.

Every week for 9 years the unit has prepared a news story for local newspapers. The unit established 3,390 water-disposal areas of such high quality that SCS technicians from 3 States were sent to see them.

Other accomplishments include: 883 miles of terraces on 8,830 acres; 323 farm ponds; 9,877 acres of lespedeza sericea, which has become the main hay crop; and seed saving that has resulted in widespread plantings of Kentucky-31 fescue and other grass crops.

Four technicians trained by Mr. Patton have been promoted to work unit conservationists at other locations.

A native of Alabama, Mr. Patton has worked in that State for the Service since 1935 except for 2 years in Puerto Rico. He was graduated from the University of Alabama in 1927.



Foster M. Patton



Eugene J. Peterson

Mr. Peterson, who has been in his present job since 1947, received an award for "meritorious accomplishments" in developing an effective system of inter-State training centers.

Mr. Peterson's persistent, patient staff work was a primary factor in establishing four inter-State training centers to replace regional training centers that were abolished by reorganization of the Service.

Aside from helping to sell operating officials on the need for training centers, as opposed to exclusive use of apprentice-type training, Mr. Peterson worked with committees to develop the course of study. He helped select and train instructors, develop schedules, and provide the physical plants, supplies, and equipment.

Mr. Peterson was regional training officer at Milwaukee from 1943 to 1947. He began his Government career in 1933 as a CCC staff member. Mr. Peterson was born at Chicago, Ill. He received a B. S. in civil engineering from the University of Wisconsin in 1931.

The award to Mr. Smart is for effectiveness in stimulating employees, district supervisors, and agricultural leaders to promote and gain enthusiastic support of soil conservation within the State.

Mr. Smart's services in soil and water conservation extend beyond the area and State. He has been able to reach many men of influence and get them to understand and appreciate the philosophy of conservation and of soil conservation districts.

Much of the present statewide and region-wide conservation leadership stems from Mr. Smart's efforts. Three of the six men who have been chairmen of the State association of districts are from his area. Four of the five State winners in the Spencer Chemical Co. speaking contest are from his area. Districts in his area won first place in the Goodyear contest in 1955, and second place in 1954.

Mr. Smart, a native of Virginia, received a B. A. degree from Berea College in 1929 and an M. S. degree in agricultural education from Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1932. He taught vo-ag before joining the Soil Erosion Service in 1934. He has been at Charlottesville since 1936 and area conservationist since 1952.



John A. Smart



Robert A. Work

Robert A. Work's award is for "developing a water-supply forecasting program that has provided advanced information to water users on probable water supplies."

Mr. Work is a nationally recognized leader in snow surveying. His outstanding accomplishments include:

- Developing an effective system of snow courses and methodology that provides advanced information on water supplies in the Western States.

- Assembling various water interests in a coordinated effort to collect and disseminate water-supply information.

- Stimulating interest in experimenting with snow-measuring equipment and over-snow machines.

- Developing a training program and safety measures to safeguard the lives of personnel engaged in hazardous mountain travel under adverse conditions.

Mr. Work became a Department employee in 1929 and joined the Service in 1939. He was born at Denton, Tex. He graduated from the University of California in 1927.

The Beaver City Work Unit (Nebraska) received an award for achieving an outstanding work performance through consistent, well-organized, and scheduled workload in promoting, planning, and applying a conservation

program in the Beaver-Sappa Soil Conservation District.

The Beaver City Work Unit staff for the past 5 years has been in the top 5 percent of Nebraska work units in production per man. The 2-man staff has made an outstanding record with only a small amount of temporary help and a little technical assistance from outside the unit.

Mr. Fausch and Mr. Franklin are in the field nearly every working day. They have a full day's schedule at hand when they leave the office. They seldom go to the field together, but use farmers for rodmen and persuade contractors to help stake out work and mark stakes.

Mr. Fausch and Mr. Franklin have applied more terracing than has been applied in any other area of equal size in their part of the State despite ridicule that was directed at these pioneers in this practice by some farmers. In all, they have helped farmers establish about 2,270 miles of terraces.

Some of their other major accomplishments in the past 5 years: 170 erosion control and livestock water dams; more than 1,000 acres of land leveling for irrigation; more than 68,000 acres staked for contouring; 306 acres of field and farmstead windbreaks; pasture seeding on 7,000 acres; 50 miles of irrigation laterals; and 34 miles of diversion ditches.

They have carried on an effective information program, including weekly stories in the local newspapers.



Only two permanent employees serve the Beaver City Work Unit: Harold K. Fausch, left, Work Unit Conservationist; and Edwin H. Franklin, Soil Conservation Aid.

The award to the Lonoke Work Unit (Arkansas) is for effectiveness in using community leadership and recognition to motivate cooperators to apply maximum amounts of conservation work.

In 1955 the work unit boosted application of conservation measures 148 percent over

1954. This was more than 9 times the average increase for the State. The unit recorded 2.98 production points per man, more than twice the State average.

The unit serviced 249 district cooperators and helped farmers prepare 89 basic conservation plans covering 10,024 acres.



Members of the Lonoke Work Unit, standing, from left: Clarence E. Cochran and James E. Weaver, Engineering Aids; seated from left: Ralph E. Hammond, Engineering Aid; Elwyn O. Christopher, Soil Conservationist; Henry C. White, Work Unit Conservationist; Mrs. Willie H. Story, Clerk-Typist.

Production accomplishments included: 33 miles of open drains on 2,995 acres; 270 irrigation wells providing water for 20,000 acres of crops; land leveling on 3,321 acres; border irrigation, chiefly for rice, on 18,146

acres, including 28 miles of above-ground canals; furrow irrigation systems, chiefly for cotton, on 9,503 acres; pasture planting on 2,713 acres; 12 irrigation reservoirs storing 3,366 acre-feet of water; 88 farm ponds.

The Lovell Work Unit (Wyoming) received an award for "sustained high-level production achieved through excellent work organization, initiative, teamwork, and use of numerous local resources."

Since organization of the Shoshone Soil Conservation District in 1945, the Lovell Work Unit has consistently been one of the highest producing units in Wyoming. Of the 414 farm operators in the unit, 350 (nearly 85 percent) are cooperating with the district. Three hundred of them are applying basic plans.

All farming land is irrigated. Much of it consists of heavy soils on which seepage and alkali problems are common.

Outstanding accomplishments include:

drainage on 7,200 acres (39,000 linear feet of closed drain and 87 miles of open drain); land leveling on 7,500 acres; 800 irrigation structures; 7,600 acres cleared and put under irrigation; controlled leaching for toxic salt reduction on 10,000 acres.

The Shoshone district won the State Good-year award in 1954. The award was based in part on the large number of local groups cooperating with the district. These include the Big Horn County ASC Committee, 4 local drainage districts, 2 irrigation districts, 4 canal companies, local schools and vo-ag departments, and several agricultural organizations such as the Farm Bureau, Farmers Cooperative, and the Great Western Sugar Company.



Members of the Lovell Work Unit, from left: George M. Danielson, Work Unit Conservationist; Reid M. Cutler, Engineering Aid; and D. Gordon Despain, Conservation Aid.



Members of the Malad Work Unit Staff, from left: Floyd W. Dorius, Work Unit Conservationist; Glen H. Spahr, Conservation Aid; Joy I. Pierce, Engineering Aid; and seated, Marguerite Pierce, Clerk-Typist, Gene Fiala, Engineer on the staff, is not shown.

The award to the Malad Work Unit (Idaho) is based on soil and water conservation work that has increased the average annual gross income of farmers in the Oneida Soil Conservation District by more than \$1 million.

Members of the unit have helped 461 cooperators on dryland and irrigated farms and rangelands.

Outstanding accomplishments include: 100 storage reservoirs (92 of them for overnight storage); 207 miles of farm ditches benefiting 25,000 acres; dryland grasses and legumes seeded on 60,000 acres for range improvement; drainage on 500 acres; annual turn under of green manure on 11,000 acres;

stubble mulching on 38,000 acres; contouring on 8,000 acres; stripcropping on 4,198 acres.

Grass is now used in 85 percent of all irrigated and dryland seedings. Each year 5,200 acres are planted to rotation hay and pasture where before the rotation was grain-fallow.

The unit carries on an effective information program and has been successful in enlisting the support of community organizations and agencies. Items appear regularly in the newspapers. Work with schools started in 1946. Essay and poster contests in grade schools and classroom and fieldwork by vo-ag students are continuing activities.



Members of the Operations Analysis and Records Section, from left: First row--Jeraldine Pogue, Ruby P. Townsley, and Dorothy G. Long, Statistical Clerks; and Helene H. Reid, Statistical Assistant. Second row--Robert E. Laramy, Jr., Soil Conservationist; Louise E. Zuefle, Clerk-Stenographer; Margaret M. Enright, Statistical Clerk; Dorothy B. Plakas, Clerk; and H. James Ferris, Soil Conservationist. Third row--Eldon T. Harden, Soil Conservationist; Robert W. Rogers, Soil Conservationist in Charge; and T. A. Neubauer, Soil Conservationist.

The Operations Analysis and Records Section (Washington, D. C.) received an award for "leadership in developing and installing a national records system, and for superior assistance to Washington and State offices in analyzing and using reports data."

In 2 years personnel of this section completely overhauled the records reporting system, issued a handbook, and helped field offices establish and use the new system.

Personnel of the section took the leadership in a series of field meetings that led to better understanding of the purposes of records and reports and Service-wide acceptance of their place in operations management.

They gave outstanding assistance to State offices in analyzing reports and using the data for management. They prepared numerous special reports for the Washington staff, Department officials, members of Congress, and other agencies of Government.

40-Year Awards

Four employees received 40-year length-of-service pins and certificates. They are Ernest Carnes, Deputy State Conservationist, Columbia, S. C.; Clyde L. Deardorff, Soil Scientist, Field Correlation Staff, Portland, Oreg.; Henry C. Noll, Photographer, Beltsville, Md.; and Jesse V. Rabb, Soil Conservationist, Mansfield, La., (retired April 30).

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

OFFICE STAFF WASHINGTON, D. C.

FIELD REPRESENTATIVES



E. A. NORTON
Northeast Area



RALPH H. MUSSER
Southeast Area



AUSTIN L. PATRICK
Cornbelt Area



T. L. GASTON, JR.
Great Plains Area



CYRIL LUKER
West Area



DONALO A. WILLIAMS
Administrator



GLADWIN E. YOUNG
Deputy Administrator



RAYMOND W. HEINEN
Assistant to Administrator



HENRY O. ABBOT
Assistant to Administrator



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Executive Assistant
to Administrator



JAMES E. GATES
Programs Appraisal
and Internal Audit



J. C. OYKES

Asst. Administrator
for Field Services



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Asst. Administrator
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Plant Technology Division



T. C. GREEN
Chief - Conservation
Needs and Records Branch



H. D. DORSKY
Hydrology



L. C. GOTTSCHALK
Sedimentation



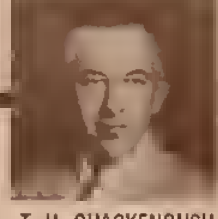
B. D. BLAKELY
Agronomy



ALFREDO M. HEDGE
Chief - Farm and Ranch
Planning Branch



J. J. COYLE
Agricultural Engineering



T. H. QUACKENBUSH
Irrigation



L. V. COMPTON
Biology



JOHN H. WEITZEL
Chief - Watershed
Planning Branch



JOHN G. SUTTON
Drainage



GED. W. MUSGRAVE
Infiltration



A. D. STOESZ
Plant Materials



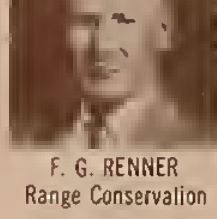
GEORGE R. PHILLIPS
Chief - River Basins Branch



G. E. RYERSON
Conservation Equipment



W. L. COWAN
Central Technical Unit



F. G. RENNER
Range Conservation



J. G. BAMESBERGER
Chief - Design and
Construction Branch



MELVIN M. CULP
Head - Design Section



T. B. BLAIR
Woodland Conservation



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Director
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Construction Branch



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Director
Soil Survey Operations



ROY W. SIMONSON
Director - Soil
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Investigations
Act Director - Soil Survey
Interpretations



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Administrative Services Division



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Chief - Procurement
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and Communications Branch



C. S. STARR, JR.
Chief - Real Estate and
Space Mgmt. Branch



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Management Division



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and Organization Branch



CARL A. LINDSTROM
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E. J. PETERSON
Chief - Safety
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OGDEN W. GREENE
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Employee Relations Branch



CARL H. DORNY
Director
Budget and Finance Division



R. L. GEIGER, JR.
Deputy Director
Budget and Finance Division



MARK W. THOMAS
Chief
Accounts Branch



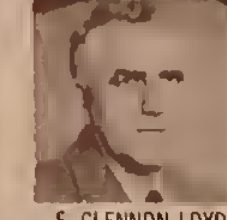
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F. GLENNON LOYD
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Chief - Visual
Information Branch



ADRIAN C. FOX
Chief
Educational Relations Branch

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Administratively Confidential

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
Washington 25, D. C.

June 29, 1956

To: All SCS Field Offices

From: D. A. Williams, Administrator

Subject: Current Developments

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

APR 7 1969

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

A year ago I said a word or two about planning our leave because we can profit by rest and relaxation. I am now heeding that good advice by taking almost the next two weeks off.

My main aim is to keep out of telephone reach as much as possible. Needless to say, my wife's got a few things for me to do at home before we take to the road.

We plan to visit my brother at Augusta, Ga., take in the NASCD meeting at Atlanta, and then spend a few days in or near the Smoky Mountains.

Other developments:

1. The full House Agriculture Committee held a hearing yesterday on the Great Plains program. Assistant Secretary Peterson, Deputy ACPS Administrator Fred Ritchie and I testified. At the friendly hearing, Peterson stressed the basic importance of the leadership of soil conservation districts, and of the conservation farm plan based on land capabilities as a foundation for a long range program in the wind erosion area.
2. Assistant Secretary Peterson and I will attend the meeting of the Great Plains Council at Fort Collins, July 23, and spend the next several days at field locations in Colorado and Nebraska.
3. The House Subcommittee on Agricultural Appropriations plans to attend the Third Annual Watershed Congress at Lincoln, Nebr., in September. After the Congress, the subcommittee members will visit Nebraska, Iowa, and Minnesota.
4. We have completed setting up a River Basins Branch in the Planning Division with George R. Phillips in charge. This unit will give leadership on such broad interstate surveys as the Lower Mississippi, Upper Colorado, and Delaware River.
5. The Senate Public Works Committee has scheduled a hearing July 3 on the House-passed Poage bill which would amend Public Law 566.

All Washington and Field Offices

6. Noted in the multilithed newsletter of the Wells County, North Dakota, SCD that 99 cooperating farmers set out 150,772 trees last spring for shelterbelts, windbreaks, and wildlife plantings.

7. I had the pleasure of seeing a complete farm conservation plan in operation last week on the 4,500 acre State Prison farm near Goochland, Va. Our technicians had worked out the plan with Manager Meyer Royster several years ago and have assisted him since. After I had seen the apparent benefits I wondered why we don't have a more ready answer for those who question the need for or the worth of a complete farm conservation plan. My hat's off to our Virginia SCS technicians who helped with such a job.

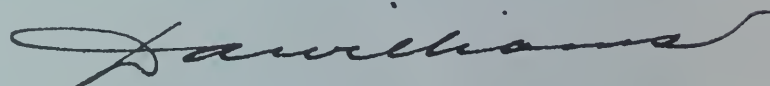
8. The four Cass County, North Dakota, Soil Conservation Districts have gone together and issued a 28-page printed "10 Year Progress Report." Seventy-two merchants in the county defrayed the cost of the illustrated publication.

9. The "40 year" USDA awards that recently went to four SCS people raised the question of who are the five SCS employees with the longest terms of service. In other words, the first five employees of the old Soil Erosion Service who are still with the Soil Conservation Service. Lee Geiger, who compiled "A Chronological History of the Soil Conservation Service and Related Events," offers the following:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Entrance on Duty</u>	<u>Present Location</u>
Kenneth P. Blair	Albuquerque, New Mexico November 7, 1933	Albuquerque, N. Mex.
Courtland B. Manifold	Washington, D. C. (For Knoxville, Tenn.) November 9, 1933	Harrisburg, Pa.
Thomas S. Buie	Spartanburg, South Carolina November 15, 1933	Columbia, S. C.
Gerald E. Ryerson	La Crosse, Wisconsin November 16, 1933	Washington, D. C.
Clyde E. Deardoff	Pullman, Washington November 22, 1933	Portland, Oreg.

If anyone has any earlier candidate or candidates to present, we will acknowledge them in a subsequent issue.

10. Have a big but good Fourth of July!



(NBC Farm & Home Hour Saturday, July 7, will feature farm pond values in fire control. Two cooperators with Maine SCD's help tell the story.)

P.S. Enclosed for your use is a copy of the pictorial chart of the Washington staff. Also enclosed is a copy of the writeup of the 1956 Honor Awards.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Washington 25, D. C.
June 20, 1957

To: All SCS Field Offices
From: D. A. Williams, Administrator
Subject: Current Developments

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APR 7 1969

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

At Secretary Benson's luncheon for his staff and agency heads last week I had opportunity to report on our small watershed work. We estimate that 138 upstream dams combined with land treatment measures on the Upper Trinity Watershed of Texas prevented damage of \$1 million to valley bottoms in tributary watersheds. If all of the planned work for the Upper Trinity (1,116 detention dams and land treatment measures) had been completed, we estimated that \$8,800,000 in upstream damages would have been prevented.

At the luncheon we showed the short film of the flood-hit Dallas-Fort Worth, the San Antonio and Houston areas of Texas. Our Information Division has released this nationally to TV stations through the Department's Television Service.

I also had opportunity to mention briefly the examinations made by 120 work units in Texas regarding moisture penetration from the heavy May storms. The field examinations included 120 paired samples on protected and unprotected land under otherwise similar conditions.

Our Texas work units found, for example, that on cropland where a combination of conservation practices was in effect, the average depth of moisture penetration was 82 inches, compared with 50 inches on the same soil without conservation treatment.

Other Developments:

1. Another stalwart in the state conservationists' ranks is retiring. Hubbard K. Gayle, who has headed our work in Kentucky since 1939, retires at the end of the month. Gayle has been in agricultural work since 1914 when he was graduated from Mississippi A. & M. College. Hub's successor is Herschel E. Hecker, a 1933 graduate of Ohio State University who has held field positions with the Service in Ohio, Kentucky and Wisconsin. Herschel, who has been with the Service since 1935, has been working with several states on water problems since the first of the year. Just prior to then he was an assistant state conservationist under Gayle. At Lexington last week I had opportunity to personally wish Hub the best.

All Washington and Field Offices

2. Oscar Bruce reports that Missouri now has a law authorizing the formation of sub-districts within soil conservation districts for the purpose of carrying out watershed protection, flood prevention, and water utilization projects. The act, passed by the legislature as an amendment to the districts enabling act, empowers the sub-district to levy on real estate within the sub-district to finance local costs. A board of three trustees would be elected to act as agents for the board of district supervisors in carrying out the objectives of each sub-district.

3. We can thank Prof. Dr. C. H. Edelman and Dr. J. M. van Staveren, of Netherlands, for a better perspective of our drainage and land reclamation problems. At the conclusion of a month's tour of our coastal areas, Dr. Edelman reviewed the two scientists' observations with SCS and USDA leaders here. Comparing U. S. wet soils with those of Holland, he noted that some of our coastal soils have great potentialities for development and others promise only failure to agricultural efforts. In several States he found unsuccessful attempts to farm a type of "mud-clay" that turns to worthless "cat-clay" when dry--everywhere, that is, except in Texas. There it turns to "tiger-clay." Anyway, the point is that drainage, like other land-use measures, needs always to be guided by careful consideration of land capability.

4. On my recent trip to Iowa, I had opportunity to meet with the SCD's works committee for the Little Sioux, which is one of the 11 authorized watersheds. I was pleased to observe that local people are assuming increasing responsibility as the project moves forward.

5. I also found time to visit with J. S. Russell of Des Moines, the president of the Soil Conservation Society of America. In this connection, let me mention again that I feel that each of us can improve ourselves professionally by membership in and active participation in the affairs of the SCSA. I understand that the Society's annual meeting at Asilomar, Calif., August 29 - September 1, will be a lively one, with water its principal theme.

6. We should know soon what our operating budget for the 1958 fiscal year will be. House-Senate conferees will resolve differences between the House- and Senate-passed appropriation bills for the Department.

Our May 10 letter outlined the bill as passed by the House on May 15. That called for a consolidated appropriation of \$535 million for all soil and water conservation activities of the Department.

The bill passed by the Senate June 11 restored the individual appropriation items for soil and water conservation. In the Senate version the SCS items are at the budget estimate level. Our January 19 letter carried the President's budget recommendations for the Service.

The House-passed measure indicated \$20 million for the Great Plains Conservation Program in 1958, while the Senate bill called for only \$10 million.

7. Recent soil conservation issues: Lewiston (Minn.) Journal; Hastings (Nebr.) Daily Tribune; Daily Idahonian, Moscow, Idaho; Coeur d'Alene (Idaho) Press; Taylor (Tex.) Daily Press; Marysville (Kans.) Advocate; Okanogan (Wash.) Independent; Mineola (Tex.) Monitor; LaGrange (Tex.) Journal; Carrizo Springs (Tex.) Javelin; Hamilton (Tex.) Herald-News; Comanche (Tex.) Chief; Heppner (Oreg.) Gazette Times; Yoakum (Tex.) Herald-Times; Wortham (Tex.) Journal; Ridge Citizen, Johnston, S. C.; Gallatin County Tribune, Bozeman, Mont.; Girard-Lake City-Fairview (Pa.) Cosmopolite Herald; Cambridge Springs (Pa.) Enterprise-News; Edinboro (Pa.) Independent; Waterford (Pa.) Leader; Union City (Pa.) Times-Enterprise; Cleburne (Tex.) Times-Review; Boerne (Tex.) Star; Menard (Tex.) News; Gainesville (Tex.) Daily Register; Whitesboro (Tex.) News-Record; Sherman (Tex.) Democrat; Muenster (Tex.) Enterprise; Goldthwaite (Tex.) Eagle; Jack County Herald, Jacksboro, Tex.

8. On Tuesday I toured Ohio's Upper Hocking Pilot Watershed with approximately 50 executives, including vice presidents and sales managers, of the farm equipment industry. This was the first time many of the industry people had observed the small watershed work and seen how it ties in to the Nation's soil and water conservation program. At lunch I talked about the program and its relation to the farm equipment industry. Our Jerry Ryerson arranged the tour in cooperation with the conservation committee of the Farm Equipment Institute.

9. We will have three identical soil and water conservation demonstration exhibits at the National Jamboree of the Boy Scouts at Valley Forge, Pa., July 12 to 18. The NASCD is providing 50,000 polyethylene souvenir bags of "Hallowed Soil from Valley Forge" for the boys who visit our displays.

10. Deputy Administrator Young, at the invitation of the Senate Agriculture Committee, showed our Texas flood TV film for members at the Capitol Wednesday. He also discussed informally how the small watershed work is measuring up to expectations.

11. I enjoyed a nice visit with State office folks at Columbus, Ohio, this Wednesday. Also, had a fine conference with Herb Eagon, Director of Ohio's Department of Natural Resources.



P.S. Calendar 1957 is about half gone. How do you stand accomplishment-wise as far as your 1957 work plan is concerned?

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
Washington 25, D. C.

July 1, 1957

To: All SCS Field Offices
From: D. A. Williams, Administrator
Subject: Current Developments

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
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APR 7 1969

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

We begin fiscal 1958 with plenty to do.

Demands for help in districts are at an all-time high, and we have 42 more districts to work with than we did a year ago.

Small watershed work under P. L. 566 is under way in earnest. As of today dirt was flying, or about to, on 30 projects that had reached the construction stage.

Upstream watershed protection and land treatment passed the test with flying colors in Texas, Oklahoma, and in spots of the Midwest where "goose drownders" struck this spring. We now have a total of 712 P. L. 566 applications, 165 of them submitted in fiscal 1957. I understand that approximately 200 additional applications have been received by state agencies, so the number will soon be pushing the 1,000 mark. The total now approved for planning is 268, and 42 have been approved for operations.

We're ready to kick off the Great Plains Conservation Program when Congress settles on the size of the appropriation for fiscal '58. Assistant Secretary Peterson has cleared the regulations and operating procedures.

Our responsibilities in connection with the Agricultural Conservation Program and the Conservation Reserve of the Soil Bank continue.

Again, I want to thank all of you for the generous efforts to help keep abreast of the demands on us, and am counting on you to help raise our fiscal 1958 accomplishments to record levels.

Other Developments:

1. I'd like for all of you to study revised Memo SCS-23 on Farm and Ranch Planning issued June 6. As stated in the memorandum: "The foremost responsibility of the Soil Conservation Service is in assisting farmers and ranchers

All SCS Washington and Field Offices

achieve, on the land, sound soil and water conservation programs which result from developing and applying basic conservation plans." This holds equally true in our regular soil conservation districts operations and in watershed projects or other areas of assistance. As our technical work load continues to increase--in total and per man--we have to strive for utmost efficiency in planning, as well as in all of our operations. Policies outlined in revised SCS-23 provide flexibility to permit each State Conservationist to develop effective operating procedures for farm and ranch conservation planning assistance in his State.

2. It was a grand opportunity for me to attend the annual American Society of Agricultural Engineers session at Michigan State University last week. The president of the society told me that the soil and water conservation section was the most active one of the entire organization. I was glad to see a number of our engineers and others in attendance among the 1,200 plus registered. As you know, I feel strongly that membership and participation in professional society activities is a good way to help keep up to date technically.

3. C. W. (Chet) Cleary, Jr., has been named state conservationist for Nevada. Since 1951 Chet had been assisting George A. Hardman, who has now retired from Federal service. Chet is a University of California graduate in agriculture. In 1955 he received his M. S. degree in Public Administration from Harvard, which he attended on a fellowship. He started with the Service in 1935, but took time out from 1944 to 1949 to operate a 2,500-acre livestock ranch in Nevada. In 1950 he was a soil conservationist in Costa Rica under the State Department's Institute of Inter-American Affairs. (My apologies to Chet. The gremlins tried to make a Scotchman of him by sticking in a "Mc" prefix a couple issues ago.)

4. Dr. Ivan D. Wood, extension irrigation engineer, retired June 30. Ivan began his career as a member of the University of Nebraska Extension staff in 1914. He later served with the Farm Security Administration in Case Wheeler work, and for 9 years was on the SCS research staff where he had a responsibility for educational cooperation in the 17 Western States. He joined the Federal Extension staff in 1954.

5. "Conservation Adventures With Dick and Debbie" is a new booklet that recently had a "coming out" party attended by the Governor of Vermont, state public and parochial school officials, SCD supervisors, and others. Information specialists Bernie Roth and Lester Fox cooperated with the state office and the Vermont Association of SCDs in its preparation. The 25,000 copies will be distributed to each 8th grade student in the state over a 3-year period.

6. The House and Senate conferees on the Department's 1958 fiscal year appropriation are now scheduled to report about July 8. Unresolved budget items that affect the Service will be settled at that time. In the meantime, we will operate under emergency authority.

7. The Minnesota Conservation Education Council is promoting its Conservation Workshop Plan through which local organizations are encouraged to

sponsor a teacher or teachers to one of several excellent teachers workshops in Minnesota and neighboring Iowa and Wisconsin.

8. "Texas Soil Conservation Districts at Work" is the title of the 70-page progress report of the Texas State Soil Conservation Board. I noted in the well-illustrated booklet that more than 180,000 farmers are cooperating with the 172 districts that cover 97 percent of the land in the state.

9. The Kentucky Department of Conservation's Divisions of Soil and Water Resources and Flood Control and Water Usage have come up with an easy-to-understand and interestingly illustrated booklet on "A Suggested Procedure For Developing A Small Watershed Program." It puts emphasis on cooperation of all community interests.

10. The SCS, the Forest Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service and state counterparts of the latter two now are putting the finishing touches on their three-ring "Conservation Circus" for the 50,000 Boy Scouts who will attend the Valley Forge National Jamboree starting July 12.

The "circus" will consist of three similar units, each containing three open-air arenas--one featuring soil and water conservation, another forestry, and a third fish and wildlife. A guided tour of the conservation displays and demonstrations of each unit by a group of Scouts will be preceded by the premiere showing of a 12-minute conservation movie, "Our Magic Land." Each Scout will also receive a 64-page booklet, "Conservation Magic for Scouts," prepared by the cooperating Federal agencies and published through the National Wildlife Federation.

11. A clipping from the Atlanta Constitution discloses a new use for Kudzu. A story of a shotgun slaying said the suspect "ran into the woods and disappeared in the kudzu, a lush vine valued as a cover crop." He was, however, captured later.

12. Assistant Administrator Van Dersal, who is on a year's leave studying under a Rockefeller grant, has returned from his round the world trip that took him to Australia, New Zealand, England and Scotland, where he studied the administration of natural resources in those countries. In 2 weeks he goes to Canada for similar work and plans then to be at the State Conservationists conference at Asilomar. Van says he hasn't found anything yet better than the SCS.

13. A new conservation book that sets some kind of record for pride of authorship among SCS folks is FLAT TOP RANCH, the story of a grassland venture in Texas. Our own W. R. Van Dersal, J. C. Dykes, and B. W. Allred each wrote chapters, and Dykes and Allred finished editing the book after the death of Louis Bromfield, who started the job. But dozens of SCS people from state office to work unit levels who had a hand in the conservation program on Flat Top ranch all share pride in the accomplishment recorded in the University of Oklahoma Press book.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
Washington 25, D. C.

January 31, 1958

To: All SCS Field Offices
From: D. A. Williams, Administrator
Subject: Current Developments

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
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APR 7 1969

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

Business in the Washington office is exceptionally brisk now that Congress has returned. We're "up to our ears" preparing for the Budget hearings and answering Congressional queries. Some of the questions are knotty ones, but many of them relate to facets of the program. We have some specific congressional requests that require analyses of our work at several locations. Our Budget hearings have been rescheduled and are now set for March 5.

We're also making progress in our study of our "external" and "internal" reports. We are hopeful that this study will result in our being able to trim our list of "must" reports. At the same time we're overhauling our communications system to increase our efficiency on that score.

In spite of all this, I keep thinking of that spring yard work that I didn't get to at home last fall. I suppose that many of you have your seed catalogs by now.

Other Developments:

1. As many of you know, I constantly urge our folks to do more writing for technical and scientific journals. I was pleased to learn that our information folks cleared a total of 217 manuscripts in 1957, an increase of 35 over 1956. These were either for national publications or given at national meetings by SCS personnel. Forty-six were written by Washington and Beltsville people, while 171 came from field offices. From an area standpoint, the Western states led with 45, followed by the Plains states, 41; Southeast, 38; Cornbelt; 28; and Northeast, 19. My compliments to those of you who prepared the papers.

2. Recently, I have been thinking some more about keeping our Service well informed technically. State Conservationists will recall that I talked about this at our annual meeting in California last year. I have just finished issue No. 13 of "Progress in Soil and Water Conservation Research" supplied to all our field offices by the Soil and Water Conservation Research Division of ARS. I was impressed by the wealth of information available to work units in this issue. Some State program staffs are pinpointing items of special importance in particular work units by notes to the field when each issue arrives. This seems like a

All SCS Washington and Field Offices

good idea to me. Maybe we should give some thought to other ways of bringing good information to the attention of our technicians.

3. Since passage of Public Law 566, 38 States have enacted 80 pieces of legislation relating to the watershed protection program.

4. In the course of the workshop here last week with the seven State Conservationists appointed recently, I had opportunity to get better acquainted with them, their plans, and their problems. At our Friday Washington office staff meeting, each of them had some good things to say about the progress of conservation work in his state. They, too, expressed their appreciation for the workshop.

5. Our snow survey section headed by Arch Work of Portland, Ore., has received a citation from the National Safety Council for operating over a 17-year period without loss of life. More than 100 snow surveyors attended this year's safety training course near Jackson, Wyo., last week.

6. As of January 1, an estimated 928,000 acres had been damaged by wind action in the Great Plains this season. Total damages this season were about one-third as much as at the same date a year ago. General conditions in the Great Plains were not nearly as severe as they were a year earlier, and farmers have emergency tilled 637,000 acres this season. The estimated acreage in condition to blow January 1 was 8.3 million acres, about 30 percent less than a year earlier.

7. Ten additional Nebraska counties have been designated as eligible to participate in the Great Plains Conservation Program, P.L. 1021, raising the 10-State total to 243.

8. Assistant Secretary Peterson met with Louisiana SCD supervisors at their annual meeting in Baton Rouge this week.

9. Assistant Administrator Kellogg is in India on a 6-week assignment under the sponsorship of the Rockefeller Foundation. Making his headquarters at New Delhi, Dr. Kellogg is traveling in India with that nation's soil scientists, assisting them with their problems in light of the country's pressing food needs. He plans to return February 12.

10. West Virginia's soil conservation districts sponsor selection of that state's "Rural Minister of the Year." Each district nominates a candidate for the award. The state SCD association contributes \$100 toward the winner's expenses for a short course at Emory university. The minister chosen also gives an inspirational talk at the state association's annual meeting. This year the state association is suggesting that all districts provide for expenses of their nominee to attend the annual meeting of the association.

11. We've recently received excellent published "20 year Progress Reports" of the North Dakota and Georgia State Soil Conservation Committees. The Nevada State Soil Conservation Committee has issued a similar printed report for the 1953-57 period. All are well laid out and illustrated. The Oklahoma State Soil Conservation Board has just published a fine "Soil Conservation District Workers' Handbook."

12. Congressional action came quickly on six small watershed projects that are of sufficient size or cost to require approval of the House and Senate Agricultural Committees. The work plans for High Pine Creek, Alabama; Big Sandy Creek, Colorado; Abbotts Creek and Deep Creek, North Carolina; and Knob Creek and York Creek, Texas, were approved by the House Committee on January 24 and by the Senate Committee on January 29. The Bureau of the Budget transmitted the plans to the Congress on January 6.

In addition, we have approved work plans for three smaller projects: Rocky Creek Branch and Simpson Creek, Iowa; and Thompson Creek, Texas. This brings the total approved for construction to 69 under the P.L. 566 program.

13. Associate Dean T. H. Fenske in a convocation during the University of Minnesota's Farm and Home Week complimented our Service and soil conservation districts of that state. Discussing "the Development of Minnesota Agriculture during the Past 100 Years," Dean Fenske cited the "Organization of the Soil Conservation Service and Soil Conservation Districts" as one of the 10 major forces which have played a key role.

14. Special conservation editions: Twin-City News, Batesburg-Leesville, S.C.; Dispatch-News, Lexington, S. C.; Morning Star, Greenwood, Miss.; Advertiser-Gleam, Guntersville, Ala.; Times-New Era, Fort Payne, Ala.; Cherokee County Herald, Centre, Ala.; Hermiston (Oreg.) Herald; Daily Republican, Burlington, Kans.; Attica (Kans.) Independent.

15. Supervisors of the Haywood County North Carolina SCD now are sworn into office. The oath of office drafted by the district is administered by the Superior Court clerk in a brief ceremony. David Noland was the first supervisor to take the oath.

16. Heads of the five in-Service training centers worked a week with E. J. Peterson and other Washington folks here recently. They dealt with problems in connection with the operation of the training centers.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Rou" or similar, written in a cursive style.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
Washington 25, D. C.

March 21, 1958

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APR 7 1969

To: All SCS Field Offices
From: D. A. Williams, Administrator
Subject: Current Developments

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

After a 4-day bout with the flu bug, I got back on the job in time to meet with the NASCD officers and directors at their annual spring meeting here this week. Many other USDA and Department of the Interior agency officials, as well as Corps of Engineers and Congressmen, also participated in their sessions. The NASCD folks also participated in our "big snow" of March 20!

Among the actions reported by the NASCD board were the following policy resolutions:

- "1. That the Board of Directors of the National Association of Conservation Districts reaffirm its belief in the sixth objective of the Association's Constitution and By-Laws as found in Article I, Section 2, namely:-

'To secure the adoption by Congress of a single national plan for the conservation and development of soil and water resources to be carried out through democratically organized and locally controlled Soil Conservation Districts.'

2. That the Board reiterate once again its stand in favor of the following four-point policy adopted previously by the Board as guiding principles for the Association through its Legislative Committee:
 - a. Any monies appropriated to the Department of Agriculture for conservation be channeled through the appropriate agency for permanent and enduring soil and water conservation practices.
 - b. Monies appropriated to the Department of Agriculture for production control and price stabilization should be distinguished as such.
 - c. We believe that Soil Conservation Districts and their association should be called on to assist in formulating local and state agricultural programs, and

All SCS Washington and Field Offices

- d. We also recommend an accelerated national land and water capability inventory; and that future diverted acres be based on that inventory.
3. That this Board and this Association would oppose the handling by Soil Conservation Districts of any Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) funds and/or payments to farmers."

Other Developments:

1. You will be interested to know that steps taken by the Administration to help stimulate business activity in rural areas and in the general economy include a proposal to step up the tempo of watershed work. The \$14,780,000 increase in the 1959 budget for watershed protection and flood prevention proposed by President Eisenhower would enable the Department to increase from 60 to approximately 100 the number of new small watershed projects started in the next fiscal year.

Under the President's proposal, \$10,000,000 of the increase would be to accelerate the P. L. 566 projects, and approximately \$5 million would be for accelerating installation of measures on the 11 authorized flood prevention projects.

Of the 826 P. L. 566 applications received to date, 330 have been approved for planning assistance. Of the 330, 71 have been approved for operations; we have on hand 15 final plans and 33 tentative plans; 161 plans are being prepared and 50 applications have been terminated as impractical at present.

2. A. L. (Art) Darsey, former Riverside, California, area conservationist, was here last week to testify at the House agricultural appropriations subcommittee hearing. Art, who is now head of California's State Division of Soil Conservation, stopped by to say "hello" at our staff meeting and to tell about his State's new division of soil conservation in the Department of Natural Resources.

3. Notification copies of our two new publications, "More Wildlife Through Soil and Water Conservation," AIB-175, and "Sediment Is Your Problem," AIB-174, have been sent to all our field offices.

4. Adrian Fox of our Educational Relations and I are again serving on the National Advisory Committee of the 7th annual National Land, Pasture and Range Judging Contest at Oklahoma City's new State Fairgrounds, May 1 and 2. This year's event includes competitions for 4-H and FFA members, college students, men, girls, and women.

5. The 1957 Essay Contest sponsored by the Louisville Courier-Journal in cooperation with Kentucky's SCD's attracted 28,512 papers. The subject was "Conserving Our Soil and Water Resources Through the Watershed Approach."

6. C. Lindsey Hunt, chairman of the "on to Asheville" drive of the SCSA, has reminded me to reserve October 19-22 for the 1958 annual meeting of the Society. He tells me that the North Carolina chapter is already making plans to

accommodate more than 1,000 at this year's convention. Lindsey reported that several other chapters have begun "on to Asheville" drives, too.

7. Discussions at the NASCD's board meeting here this week indicated that Soil Stewardship Week scheduled for May 11-18 will be more widely observed this year than a year ago. We've had reports that many districts soon will be conducting conservation tours to help brief cooperating ministers on local developments in soil and water conservation.

In the last issue I talked of the Sunday Inspirational Meeting opening the NASCD convention as one of the new features of the 1958 annual meeting. Missouri's Howard Jackson thoughtfully reminded me that the first Inspirational Service was at St. Louis, where the Illinois and Iowa Ladies Auxiliaries and the Committee arranged the program.

8. Frank E. Neely is the new Coshocton, Ohio, Training Center supervisor. Formerly a WUC at Des Moines, Iowa, Frank replaces "Doc" Taylor, who stopped to see us this week en route to his foreign assignment to India.

9. The Kansas Industrial Development Commission recently adopted a resolution pledging its support of and cooperation with the SCS, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Army Engineers, "the three federal agencies charged with the responsibility of developing the water resources of the nation." Commission Director John H. Sticher said it took the action "in order to place Kansas in a more favorable competitive situation with surrounding states for attracting industry." The resolution also urged the Kansas Water Resources Board and other state agencies to consider the value and importance of the early completion of the authorized and recommended water control projects in Kansas.

10. The 23rd North American Wildlife Conference in St. Louis provided me the opportunity to discuss the objectives and accomplishments in soil and water conservation and point out their relationship to wildlife. I told the conference that the time is right for sportsmen and wildlife organizations to join with soil conservation districts to work together to benefit all land resources and all uses of such resources. Districts now include 93 percent of all farms and ranches in the country and about 88 percent of the farmland. Speaking for the Service, I said that we will continue to deal with wildlife as an inseparable part of the interrelated community on all land. We will further encourage the farmers and ranchers we help to make wildlife improvements as conservation works are carried forward. We can have productive farms and plenty of wildlife--at the same time.

The week prior to the Wildlife Conference our biologists held a workshop at St. Louis. State Conservationists Flueck of Minnesota, Martin of Louisiana, and Bruce of Missouri participated in the sessions.

11. With the cooperation of our office and the Northwest Worcester SCD, the Barre, Mass., Gazette recently conducted a "Mystery Farm Contest." Each week a farm conservation map of a local cooperator was printed with a list of clues, most of which were conservation practices on the farm. The contestants

tried to identify the farm's owner. Three local merchants provided merchandise prizes for each of the six contest weeks. The first week there were 60 entries and 38 correct answers. This is the first such "mystery farm" contest we've noticed that has used farm conservation maps.

12. I've again reviewed our 1957 motor vehicle summary. Since cost of operation of the Service's vehicle fleet in the aggregate is a sizable item, I would like to ask every operator to help us hold operating and replacement costs down. I will be asking the offices in charge of management of our fleet to study the situation and set up some guides for greater economy. Our 1957 average expense per mile was \$0.0313 for passenger cars and \$0.039 for pickups. Average for all Service vehicles was \$0.0362.

13. I had hoped to be able in this letter to tell you what action the House of Representatives had taken on appropriations, but I can't as they haven't taken it! Looks like another week or two yet. However, Senate hearings are under way and we are up to bat on March 24.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Don", is written in a cursive style.